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THE INDEPENDENT

3,075

TUESDAY 27 AUGUST 1996

WEATHER: Early cloud then sunshine and showers

40p (IR45P)

Planes

Cancer fear for airline crews

LIZ HUNT
Health Editor

Growing fears that airline pilots and cabin crew face an increased risk of cancer from exposure to cosmic radiation has prompted a new European directive requiring airlines to monitor and limit the dose their employees receive.

Preliminary studies suggest that air hostesses are almost twice as likely to suffer breast cancer and 15 times more likely to have bone cancer than women in the general population. Pilots appear to have the highest leukaemia risk of any occupation, and are more likely to develop melanoma and cancer of the lower gut, according to a study in the journal, *Aviation Space and Environmental Medicine*.

The studies involved small numbers of people, and researchers have stressed that more research is needed to substantiate or refute the findings. But they also raise questions over the type of radiation the crew are exposed to, and whether this has been taken into account when calculating risk.

Airlines have repeatedly played down the dangers of cosmic radiation exposure to avoid alarming crew and passengers who fly regularly, although a large American survey is underway to establish if there is any risk to frequent flyers. The airlines have failed to reassure some pilots, including British pilots, who now carry personal radiation monitors on the flight deck. The British Airline Pilots' Association is funding a study by scientists at Bremen University to assess chromosome damage to Concorde crew who, because they fly at higher altitudes (about 59,000ft), are exposed to the highest levels of radiation.

Balpa plans a second study for pilots on subsonic flights flying regularly at 39,000ft, and is recruiting volunteers to carry monitors with them when they fly. Carolyn Evans, technical secretary for Balpa, said: "It is something we are greatly concerned about. We are fortunate in that excellent data exists for Concorde crews because it was required by law to carry monitoring equipment."

who had not died before 1 January 1967 - a total of 187 men and 1577 women.

Dr Eero Pukkala of the Finnish Cancer Registry, and Anssi Auvinen of the Finnish Centre for Radiation Nuclear Safety, found "significantly raised risks" of breast and bone cancer in air hostesses. A second study by the Danish Cancer Society found an excess of breast and bone cancers and leukaemias among cockpit and cabin crew.

A study for the German Cockpit Association found that pilots were up to 10 times more likely to have chromosome abnormalities than the general population, although the significance of the abnormalities is not known.

Cosmic radiation originates in outer-space and radioactive particles are drawn towards the North and South Poles by magnetic forces. Airline crews are chronically exposed to cosmic radiation, mainly from neutrons and gamma rays. The mean annual dose is estimated at between 1000-3000 microSieverts (a unit of radiation) per year but this varies according to flight altitude - the dose doubles every 4,920ft - latitude, and solar activity.

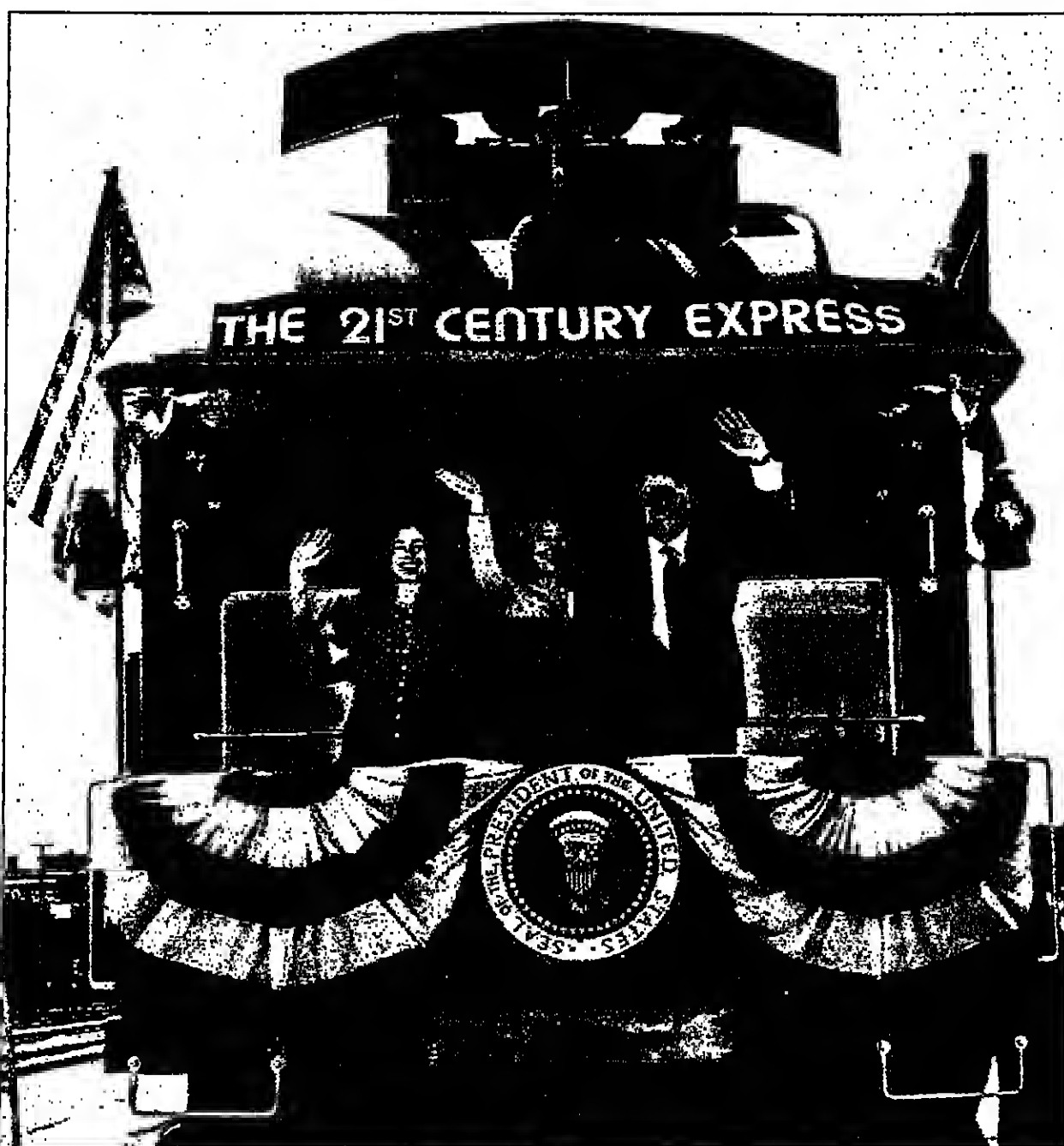
According to the National Radiological Protection Board which is responsible for the safety of aircrew, the limit of exposure is 6000 microSv in any one year. The average radiation dose experienced by crew flying at 39,000ft is 5 microSv per hour, and 10 microSv for super-sonic flights.

Dr Chris Sharp, head of the Medical Department at the NRPB, said that even on the "worst case" radiation exposure, the London to Tokyo route, crews will accumulate 5400 microSv, well below the NRPB recommendation. Exposure on the ground of the general population is about 2200 microSv per year, and an X-ray delivers a dose of 20 microSv.

Dr Michael Bagshaw, head of Aviation Medical Services at British Airways, said that the risks to crew posed by cosmic radiation was minimal, and that a study of pilots flying between 1966-1989 showed that they had seven more years life expectancy than a similar population of non-flyers. He said 21 years of data from Concorde flights did not show any increased risk of cancer.

"There have been commercial flights for more than 50 years and no evidence of an excess of cancers. The international limits for occupational [radiation] exposure is 20,000microSv per year or 100,000microSv in five years with up to 50,000 in anyone year. Crew are well within that. We would be foolish to say there is no risk but we are confident that it is minimal," Dr Bagshaw said.

Additional research Amelia Hill



Campaign trail: The Clinton family preparing to leave Huntington, West Virginia, for their tour. Left, Roosevelt with his son Franklin at Bismarck, North Dakota, in 1936; right, Harry Truman in Washington DC in 1948. Main photograph: Reuters

Trains

Clinton on the voters' track

DAVID USBORNE
Aboard the Presidential train

Any form of transport is at the disposal of candidates running for the White House, but if it is romance, patriotic imagery and old-fashioned populism that you are after, nothing can beat the iron horse.

Abraham Lincoln rode the rails to power, and so did Harry Truman and Franklin Roosevelt. This week it is Bill Clinton who is trying to capture the whistle-stop magic with a four-day train swing through five states of the Midwest, many of which are critical battlegrounds in the 1996 election, on his way to the Democrat convention which opened without him in Chicago yesterday.

Of course, Mr Clinton could have flown to Chicago aboard Airforce One. Considering the overwhelming logistics of packing a miniature White House and a full Press corps into 10 railway carriages and navigating them halfway across the country, flying would certainly have been easier. But what a missed opportunity that would have been.

"I'm going on a train," he declared on one of his stops yesterday, "because I want to see people like you that I've been working for and fighting for four years." Never mind that most Americans never travel by train anymore. The historical resonance of trains escapes no one; certainly not a campaign professional like Mr Clinton.

This ride is the on-location part of the Democrats' convention week. The studio work is being done inside the United Center in Chicago where Mr Clinton will appear on Thursday. But this is the part where the President puts on a show of getting out with the voters themselves, something he does with aplomb and skill.

Mr Clinton yesterday used a stop in Columbus, Ohio, to decide the Republican Party for resisting gun control and made

new proposals to strengthen a hand-gun Bill. The President accused the Republicans of portraying his policies as an assault on law-abiding sports hunters. He quipped, to roars of approval from the crowd: "I didn't know a single deer hunter with an Uzi - not a one."

This trip has been scripted by Harry Thomason and Mort Engberg, the same pair of Hollywood producers who conjured up Bill Clinton's and Al Gore's smash-hit bus tour through the Midwest after the Democratic Convention in New York four years ago.

The front two-thirds of the train comprise the most modern rolling stock America can muster. The rear of the train boasts two polished and majestic period carriages. These are the cars that provided the backdrop for the whistle-stop campaigns that Thomason and Engberg are so keen to evoke. For candidates in the last century, the train provided a vital means of making contacts with the voters. Abraham Lincoln toured the country by rail in 1860 on trains more basic than this. President Roosevelt had a car personally built for his peregrinations around the country. Most famous of all, however, are the monochrome images of Harry Truman travelling some 30,000 miles by train during his comeback campaign against Thomas Dewey in 1948.

Mr Clinton's accommodation on this trip is the Georgia 300, used by President Roosevelt for his visits from Washington to his favourite retreat, Warm Springs, Georgia. Most importantly, it has that small platform at the back, adorned with patriotic bunting, upon which the President can stand as the train pulls out of its every stop. And just so that no one misses the point, the slogan of the journey is a groan-inducing pun: this President has put America on the right track.

Clinton bandwagon, page 6

& automobiles

Jams begin as rain stops play

MATTHEW BRACE

Thousands of motorists and their families deserted the beaches and set off for home early last night as the cooler, wet weather over the Bank Holiday weekend made for a more peaceful time on the roads.

As the traffic queues began to grow yesterday evening, a spokesman for AA Roadwatch said showers across the country and the lack of August heat had helped keep holidaymakers re-

laxed. "We've had quite a quiet weekend compared to what it's usually like. What we haven't had is the... sunshine which often brings out the boy racer in people," he said.

AA Roadwatch was gearing up to cope with the slow crawl home from seaside resorts. Despite many roadworks being cancelled for the holiday period, delays were expected.

Many people left early because of the autumnal weather, meaning the post-Bank Holiday

rush started sooner than normal. By 6pm the worst-hit area was the North East, with delays growing on the A1/M.

Showers washed most of the country yesterday and were expected to linger into the night in western regions, where hill fog and mist were also likely.

But the changeable weather did not dampen spirits at London's highest street party of the year - the Notting Hill Carnival. As many as 1.5 million people were expected to attend

the three-day event. Once again, the carnival passed off safely with only a handful of arrests for minor offences.

At the height of the carnival yesterday a Metropolitan Police spokesman said: "We believe there are about 400,000 people here... but we are expecting more. The mood is very positive and we are pleased with the way things are going," he said.

Nearly 7,000 police officers were on duty over the weekend to police the event.

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QUICKLY
Men in danger
Men behave not only badly but dangerously, and the only things that can save them from an early death are women, according to a new report. Page 5

Patients at risk
Government attempts to cut NHS bureaucracy will put the care of patients with complex conditions at risk, Britain's top specialist hospitals have warned. Page 4

Research fund threat
The Cancer Research Campaign is threatening to withdraw funding from Cambridge University scientists in protest at the university's decision to take £1.6m from British American Tobacco. Page 6

Nazi secret
The three German officials who tried and failed to track down and prosecute the war criminal Erich Priebke had been Nazis themselves, it has been revealed. Page 6

Taxpayers foot £500,000 clothes bill for royal visits

ANTHONY BEVINS
Political Editor

An *Independent* analysis of royal trips over the last four years shows that clothing bills could account for as much as one-fifth of the £2.5 million cost to the taxpayer of official visits - a bill of around £500,000 picked up by the Foreign Office.

It is not uncommon for royal parties to spend more than £4,000 on clothing for an official trip, regardless of the distance and time spent abroad. Labour MPs last night called for limits to be imposed on royal clothing bills paid for by the taxpayer.

Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, told Labour MP Tony Banks earlier this month that

when Princess Alexandra went to the United States on a four-day visit in October-November 1993, the clothing bill "for the whole party" came to £4,950 - out of a total bill for items including travel, gifts, salaries, post and other charges of £24,800.

The Princess's official engagements "included a visit to the Metropolitan Museum of Art, a reception and dinner hosted by the American Association of the Royal Academy, and a visit to the British American Chamber of Commerce," Mr Rifkind said.

In another answer to Mr Banks this month, Mr Rifkind said that when Prince Charles made an official visit to Los Angeles "in order to support the UK-Los Angeles festival" be-

fore flying on to Hong Kong to make a speech "at the opening of the World Congress on Urban Growth and the Environment" and other engagements, the clothing bill "for the whole party" came to £6,400 for a trip costing £53,300.

Of a dozen visits examined by the *Independent*, following questions put by Mr Banks, it appears that the Foreign Office picked up clothing bills of more than £55,000 for trips costing a total of £285,000, or 20 per cent of the total cost.

Labour campaigner Alan Williams said last night: "I can understand visits to various climates can put a strain on their wardrobes, but there should be some form of clothing allowance, within which they have

to operate. These figures suggest there is very little control; it's certainly better than an account at Marks and Spencer."

The Foreign Secretary told Mr Banks in July: "High profile and worthy representation of Britain abroad inevitably involves additional expenditure on clothes by members of the Royal Family and certain of those accompanying them."

"It is right that such expenditure should be met by the Government for visits undertaken at our request."

A spokesman for the Foreign Office said last night that he doubted whether the taxpayer picked up the bill for Mr Rifkind's clothes when he made high-profile visits abroad.

Cost of glamour, page 3

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news

Cambridge may lose charity cash

The Cancer Research Campaign, a leading medical charity, is threatening to withdraw funding from Cambridge University scientists in protest at the university's decision to take £1.6m from British American Tobacco to fund a chair in international relations.

The charity spends £2.5m a year on research at the university. All existing contracts will be honoured, but the CRC's council is to meet next month and debate whether further work should be funded there.

The move would mark a further escalation in the war between doctors, medical sci-

Cancer group threatens to withdraw research millions over funding from tobacco company, reports Nicholas Timmins

entists and the tobacco companies at a time when they are under pressure in the United States from President Clinton's decision to declare cigarettes a drug under the Food and Drugs legislation. It also follows protests over the weekend at last year's decision by a Medical Research Council unit to accept cash from BAT towards a research project on nicotine.

As a result of those protests, the MRC's council will

re-consider the guidelines under which its units are encouraged to seek outside cash to support their work.

The Cancer Research Campaign's move, which could cost Cambridge more in lost funding than it has gained from BAT's endowment, follows a bitter division at the university over whether to take the cash. The money was only accepted after a ballot of Cambridge's 3,300 dons last month, who voted by

two to one to take it.

The BAT endowment was opposed at the time by Sir Keith Peters, the university's Professor of Physics and its most senior medical academic, who is also a member of the CRC's council. He said then: "Tobacco is a major health problem in all countries and control of cigarette smoking is the single most powerful opportunity for preventive medicine in the developed world." Professor Gor-

don McVie, the CRC's director general, said at the time that he was "mightily displeased" that Cambridge had taken the money. Sir Walter Bodmer, head of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, called the decision to accept it "quite appalling".

Susan Osborne, the CRC's director of communications, said the issue had reached such a pitch that the charity had decided to hold a special council meeting next month to debate

the issue and decide what action, if any, it should take.

It was not yet clear, she said, what decision would be made, but deciding not to fund work in Cambridge in future was "one option" to be debated.

With 100,000 premature deaths a year caused by smoking, tobacco funding "has to be a major issue to consider for an organisation like ours", she said. "We raise over £50m a year and we have to consider the feelings of our supporters, many of whom are supporters because they have had cancer in the family, much of it due to tobacco-related damage."

SIGNIFICANT SHORTS

A ferry caught fire and 111 people were evacuated from it off the Channel Islands yesterday afternoon, Guernsey Police said. The fire broke out in the port-side engine room of the *Trident Seven* catamaran carrying mostly British and French day trippers minutes after it left St Peter Port in Guernsey bound for Jersey, and passengers were taken off in a rescue operation helped by private and commercial craft. The only person injured was an 88-year-old French woman who was taken to Princess Elizabeth Hospital in St Peter Port with a suspected leg injury and broken arm. The ship was last night towed back into harbour with a firefighting crew on board.

Free school meals for the poorest children could be replaced with sandwiches, crisps or chips under government plans which will break up the meals service in many areas, local authorities have warned. Proposals to remove meals from the part of the budget held by local authorities will force schools to choose between sacking teachers and providing decent lunches for children from families on income support, they say. The law says free meals must be given to these children, but does not specify what they should consist of. This week Local Schools Information, a company funded by the local authorities, will publish a report attacking the plans. *Fran Abrams*

Mary Robinson criticised Royal Ulster Constabulary members who were involved in sectarian and aggressive behaviour during the recent Drumcree confrontation. Speaking at a summer school at the Glenree Reconciliation Centre in Co Wicklow yesterday the President of Ireland said unlawful actions were always serious but much more so "when committed by those in uniform". She emphasised that she was not suggesting this applied to the majority of members of the security forces. *Alan Murdoch*

Proposals to secure the future of the Cairngorms in the Scottish Highlands, one of Britain's most important areas of nature conservation, were launched yesterday. The draft management strategy of the Cairngorms Partnership includes projects such as the formation of new forests on Deciduous to generate new industries, improve recreational opportunities and boost visitor numbers. The strategy will be the subject of extensive public consultation.

Ireland's 1,200 Jews are to get a new Chief Rabbi after three years without one. They will be led by Gavin Broder, who has been rabbi at Newbury Park synagogue in east London for the past six years. The previous Chief Rabbi was Ephraim Mirvis. After he retired his chosen successor decided to take up an alternative post.

Two people were killed when a light aircraft crashed yesterday. The victims, both men in their mid-thirties, died instantly when their Raytheon aircraft came down in a field behind Barton aerodrome, Salford, Greater Manchester. Airfield director Eric Whitworth said the pilot had taken off two hours before the field was officially open at 9am, at a time when no fire or air traffic control cover was provided, without permission for the early flight. The cause of the crash was being investigated. The incident was the second in a few weeks at Barton where last month a Second World War mosquito fighter bomber crashed during an air show killing the pilot and navigator.

Apology: A photograph in yesterday's issue, illustrating an item about Laurence Marks, the television writer, was in fact of Laurence Marks, the journalist and profile writer who recently died. We offer our sincere apologies to the family of the late Laurence Marks for this error.

Boy, 5, dials 999 after mother's murder

MATTHEW BRACE

A five-year-old boy who lost both parents in an apparent murder and suicide incident dialled 999 to summon help when he found his mother's blood-stained body.

Jonathan Healey, an only child, dialled the emergency services and asked for an ambulance when he found his mother Amanda's body on the landing of the family's semi-detached home in Cardiff on Sunday night. Police said she had been stabbed repeatedly.

After dialling 999, Jonathan let paramedics into the house where they found his mother.

Twenty-five miles away at the South Wales coastal beauty spot of Southerndown, detectives recovered the body of Jonathan's father, Robert, from among rocks. His black G-registration BMW was abandoned on the headland close by.

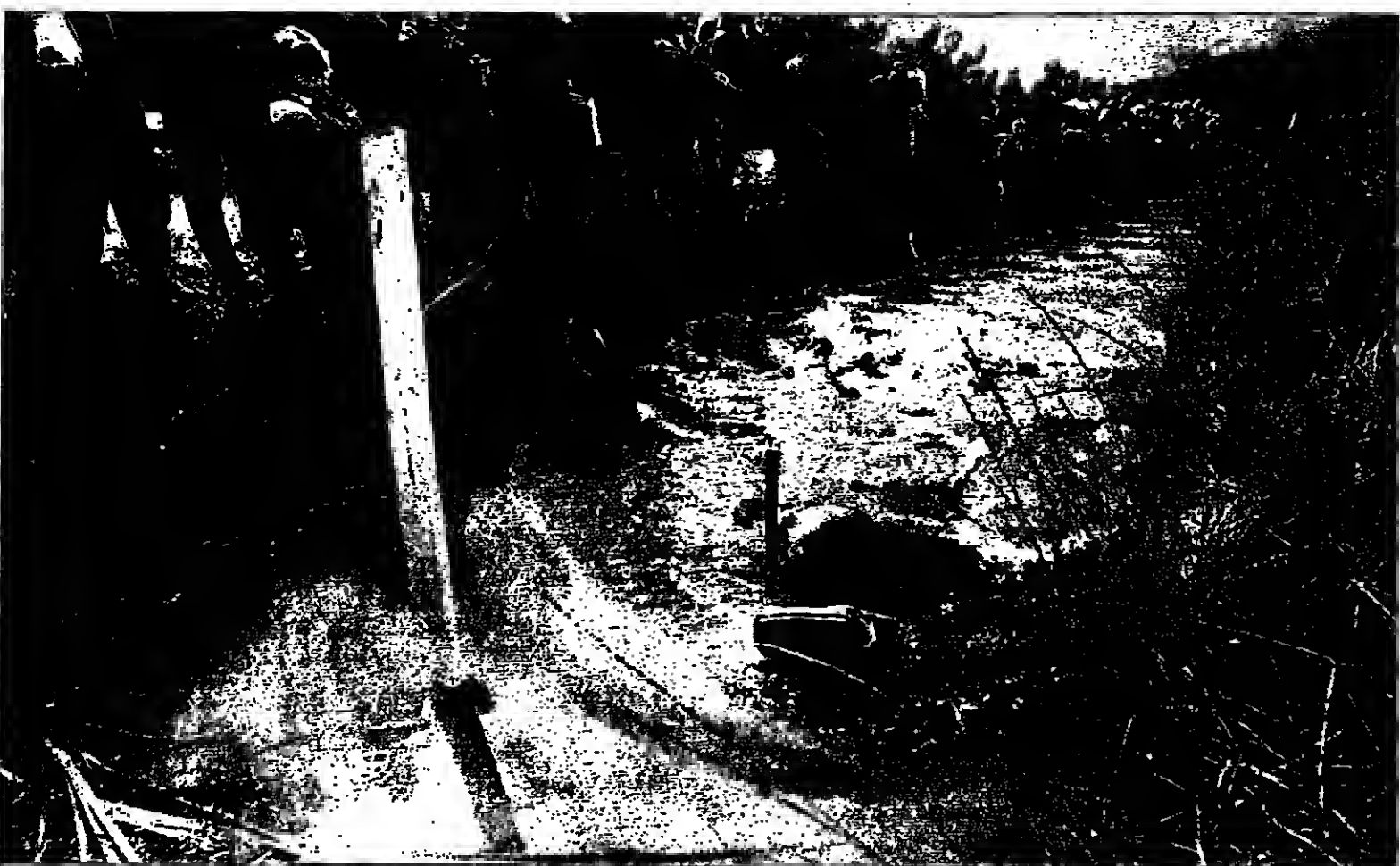
South Wales police are working on the theory that Jonathan's father, a self-employed plumber, killed his wife during an argument late on Sunday night and then drove to the lonely beach where he killed himself by slashing his wrists.

Officers are not seeking anyone else in connection with the deaths but have issued an urgent appeal for help from the Healeys' relatives and friends to piece together the couple's last hours.

Detective Superintendent Dave Thomas said officers would be guided by expert counsellors and the force's child support unit before attempting to speak to Jonathan.

"What this little boy did is quite amazing bearing in mind what he may have heard or seen. His actions in summoning emergency help in such a traumatic situation must be commended most highly," he said.

Heads down as snorkellers attempt to set the bog standard



Lecturer Steve Mitchell completes his challenge at the 11th World Bog Snorkelling Championship in Llanwrtyd Wells, Powys, yesterday. The prize for swimming two 60-metre lengths non-stop, keeping the arms under water, was £40.

Writ will settle jail release row

ANTHONY BEVINS
Political Editor

A rare writ of habeas corpus, challenging the authority of the Home Secretary to detain prisoners who were to have been early, is expected to resolve the dispute by the end of next week.

Michael Howard and the prison minister Ann Widdecombe will meet Richard Tilt, Director-General of the Prison Service, at the Home Office this morning for a preliminary examination of the time-bomb Mr Tilt left behind when he left for a holiday in Italy last Wednesday.

One Home Office source

told *The Independent* last night that Mr Tilt had not even mentioned the "early release" issue when he delivered his end-of-term report to the Home Office. It was dealt with, almost as an aside, in a three- or four-page document, and according to one official who has seen the file, it was not even mentioned on the first page.

That could explain why it was not spotted by Mr Howard when it went to him in his daily box of official papers last Thursday and why he was caught unaware when approached by journalists after the first of 86 prisoners were freed.

Miss Widdecombe was on

holiday, so the report was left on her desk to await her return. That suggests that Home Office officials were not vetting the papers of either the Home Secretary or the prison minister.

Of more immediate concern to ministers, however, could be the complete breakdown of the political "radar" that had been placed within the Prison Service.

A monitoring unit of Home Office officials led by a senior, Grade 3, official, had been placed within its headquarters because of previous breakdowns in communications, with the specific task of spotting political problems on the horizon and alerting the Home Secretary.

Initially, encouraged by Mr Howard, the unit worked against the service, second-guessing almost every significant decision last year. Now it appears to have gone "native" and whatever happens as a result of the current inquiry, Mr Howard will have to come up with more tightly timed orders.

While Mr Tilt might have been naive enough to believe that the early-release project would not cause any difficulty, Mr Howard will feel that his own officials might have had the political nous to challenge that view. If any heads roll, they can be expected to do so - quietly - from within that unit.

Mr Tilt's meeting today will

be uncomfortable, if not discriminatory, but no disciplinary action can be taken against him until the immediate legal situation has been resolved.

Mr Tilt was holding talks at his offices in Westminster yesterday, having interrupted his holiday.

The 52-year-old Director-General, who has said he sees no reason to resign from his £90,000-a-year post, is known as a man who delegates as much as he can, unlike his predecessor, and the latest crisis is seen as a product of that approach.

The new guidelines on calculating release dates were drawn up by a Prison Service working party, with advice from Home Office lawyers, after a series of court cases last year.

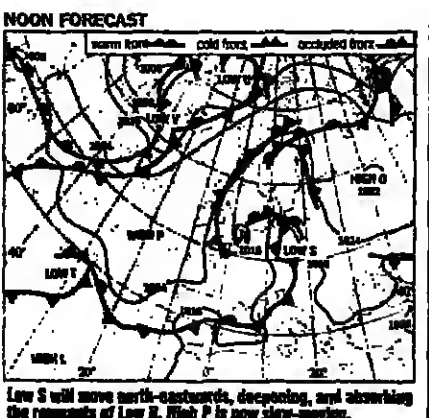
The working party found that the 1967 Criminal Justice Act, which allows time spent in custody on remand before sentence to be subtracted from a jail term, had been incorrectly interpreted for almost 30 years.

It decided that the Act allowed the remand period to be taken into account in each of a series of consecutive sentences, rather than being simply subtracted from the total time served. It was estimated that 500 prisoners could expect to be freed immediately and that a further 4,000 would have the time they served reduced.



Richard Tilt: No resignation

Weather forecast



TODAY'S FORECAST It will be cool and cloudy over eastern, central and south-eastern England with heavy showers, persistent with rain and drizzle over Wales, western England and Ireland. Scotland will be drier than south with sunny spells, but also scattered sharp showers. Scotland will be drier than south with sunny spells, and a chilly north-easterly wind near the coast.

OUTLOOK FOR THE NEXT FEW DAYS Tomorrow will be cool and sunny in eastern and south-eastern England, but the rest of the UK should be dry. On Thursday and Friday a fresh breeze from the north will keep temperatures cool and cloudy with a few showers. Wales, western England and north-west Scotland should be dry with sunbursts, but Atlantic fronts will bring rain to Scotland and northern Ireland.

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Dressing the House of Windsor: Princes and princesses must travel the world, but someone has to pick up the clothes bill

The Royal cost of keeping up appearances

REBECCA FOWLER

It is not easy keeping up appearances for the Windsors. But the Royal Family's latest clothes bills for foreign travel, from the well-cut safari suit to the most spangled evening dress, all land on the desks of Whitehall civil servants to be settled.

Some of the royals are such dedicated followers of fashion, that the strain is already showing on the most recent recruits to the family. Prince Edward's partner Sophie Rhys-Jones, told her friends recently she simply could not compete on £300 a week as a humble former PR consultant. As the bills trickle through for trips including those to the Caribbean, Hong Kong, Mexico and San Francisco, it is hardly a surprise. Princess Margaret alone took £7,200 worth of gear for her and her entourage on a trip to the United States last summer.

Even the royal men are not shy of shelling out on dapper outfits for royal tours. Prince Philip spent £1,800 on clothes for a trip to the Caribbean; and Prince Charles's tailors put in a bill for £6,400 for his trip to Los Angeles and Hong Kong. The most modest buyer was the Duke of Kent who spent just £300 for a two-day trip to Singapore in September.

But what is a full-blown royal to do on such a trip? According to the shopping list for travel clothes, climatic changes, evening gowns and state events do not come cheap, and the royal wardrobe is high-maintenance. As with all royal tours, Buckingham Palace send all the cutters' bills to the Foreign Office for payment. The front-runner in the royal glamour stakes is Princess Margaret, who has made a recent concession by wearing hand-me-downs from her sister. She is famous for her taste in spangled dresses, white Marnie Mouse shoes from Rayne, designers who include Anouska Hempel and Caroline Charles, and attention to detail. She once said: "I always have to be practical... Sleeves mustn't be too tight either, they must be all right for waving."

Even the lesser royals are determined to keep up appearances. The Duchess of Kent, who favours Giorgio Armani, has spent around £11,000 on four clothes in the past three years.

Prince Edward forked out £2,200 of Foreign Office money on a trip to Swaziland. He was a customer at Airey and Wheeler, the gentlemen's outfitter in Piccadilly famous for its safari suits, and which ran up lightweight suits for Sir Winston Churchill when he visited Aristotle Onassis's yacht in the 1960s.

Earlier this summer, Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, attempted to defend the wardrobe bills. He said: "High-profile and worthy representation of Britain abroad inevitably involves additional expenditure on clothes by members of the Royal Family."

One welcome cutback has been Princess Diana's removal from the list of royals claiming for new frocks and suits from the Foreign Office, since the royal divorce was set in motion. She set new standards a decade ago for reportedly ordering £80,000 of outfits for a 16-day tour to the Middle East, softening the blow by selecting British designers, including Catherine Walker and the Emanuels.

But the most notable absentee from the wardrobe expenses file is the Princess Royal, famous for gamely reusing outfits she ordered up to 20 years ago. At the D-day commemoration service in Arromanches she wore a coat she first wore to visit Canada in 1974.

John Boyd, her milliner of 27 years, said afterwards: "She keeps all the hats I've made her in perfect condition... They're all put away beautifully and come out years later, like new."

Sartorial style does not come cheap in the House of Windsor				
Date	Duration	Royal	Location	Clothing
March 93	8 days	Diana	Nepal	£4,800
March 93	20 days	Philip	Caribbean	£1,800
Sept 93	4 days	Edward	Swaziland	£2,200
Oct/Nov 93	4 days	Alexandra	US	£4,950
Dec 93	4 days	Duchess of Kent	Seychelles	£4,200
Oct 94	14 days	Alexandra	HK & Japan	£7,000
Oct 94	13 days	Gloucesters	UK, Singapore	£6,000
Oct/Nov 94	11 days	Charles	LA & HK	£6,400
Nov/Dec 94	8 days	Yarls	HK	£7,400
June 95	1 week	Margaret	San Francisco	£7,200
Sept 95	3 days	Duke of Kent	Singapore	£300
Nov 95	4 days	Gloucesters	Mexico	£3,000



Royal ambassadors: (Clockwise from left) Princess Diana in Nepal, 1993; Princess Margaret, renowned for her spangled frocks, on her way to San Francisco, 1995; Prince Charles in Los Angeles, 1994; and Prince Edward on a trip to Swaziland in 1993 which cost Whitehall £2,200 in clothes bills

Prostitute video set to fuel controversy

MICHAEL STREETER

A new video called *Hookers* is likely to add fresh controversy to the row about the making of films using "real-life" footage from surveillance and closed-circuit cameras.

Due out in two weeks, it is thought to feature scenes of prostitutes working in the street and also in hotel rooms captured on hidden cameras. The makers, EduVision, last night declined to reveal more details about the film, how it was made or where the footage was gathered.

But as it is likely to contain an explicit mixture of sex and surveillance, *Hookers* was predicted by the industry to raise new questions about intrusion, privacy and copyright following the Government's attempt to ban a video featuring operations.

One industry source told *The Independent*: "We think *Hookers* is going to cause another row, not just over its content but about how it was made."

The controversy over *Everyday Operations* continued yesterday with its producers claiming it was medical video first proposed making the film. David Donaghy, of the video's makers, ICM Video, said he was contacted "originally by an award-winning medical training video organisation run by medically qualified people."

They said they had footage that they felt was worthy of a wider audience, he said. Sales of the video, which costs £12.99, were halted on Sunday after the Department of Health obtained an interim injunction.

The health minister Gerry Malone warned that he would take a "very serious view" of any breach of patient confidentiality by the NHS in the making of the video. He said he was determined to ensure that the guidelines on confidentiality were properly adhered to.

A full hearing is expected later this week but Mr Donaghy said the ban would be fought. Leading article, page 9

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Deal puts REM in record books

TIM CORNWELL

Los Angeles

REM, the rock group celebrated for their artistic integrity and socially conscious outlook, have signed the biggest known recording contract in the history of the music industry.

The group's four members will receive a reported \$80m (£53m) for their next five albums from Warner Bros. Already in their mid-to-late thirties, they will be nearing 50 when the last album is delivered. Thousands of Warner employees at a company summit in Anaheim, California, applauded when the chairman, Russ Thyret, announced REM had agreed to the deal.

But despite their enormous album sales of 30 million, industry analysts were left to wonder how the company will recoup its vast outlay. Formed in 1980, REM have grown from cult status into a mature band whose audience runs from teenagers to the thirty-somethings who grew up with them.

Guitarist Peter Dinklage, 39, singer Michael Stipe, 36, bassist Mike Mills, 37, and drummer Bill Berry, 37, have won four Grammys and despite their success remain based in Athens, Georgia, a small college town.

Environmentally and politically engaged, REM played at President Bill Clinton's inaugural celebrations in Washington DC four years ago. They have been prominent supporters of MTV's Rock the Vote campaign to encourage young Americans to register to vote.

The deal broke the \$70m record set by the singer Janet Jackson earlier this year. Warner Bros saw off bids from five other companies and sees the signing as a huge coup.

The company is struggling to recover from a series of corporate power battles in the last two years. Several had threatened to jump ship, including REM. The terms of the deal are thought to be \$10m signing bonus, \$10m per new album, and \$20m advance on sales of their existing Warner albums.

Music's silly season, page 11

Viewers cannot get enough of real life

The row over the "op shock" hospital video *Everyday Operations* is one more sign of the public's apparent fascination with so-called "real-life" action.

Set against those people who expressed outrage over a video depicting hospital surgery, are the 9 million-plus who settle down to watch ITV's new hit series *Police, Action, Camera!*

Essentially the two rely on the same ingredients: video footage shot by official bodies in formal circumstances and later skillfully packaged as entertainment in our living rooms.

Increasingly, say experts, the lines between information and entertainment are being blurred on our television and video screens; information—if graphic enough—is entertainment.

The controversial video *Executions*, which featured 21 killings from around the world, is perhaps the clearest example yet of how a supposedly educational programme was regarded as exploiting the worst of humanity for entertainment.

The same group of producers had earlier made the successful *Police Stop!* video which grossed £3.5m with its high-speed car chases and crashes.

More controversial was the *Caught in the Act!* video, which combined villains being caught committing crimes with closed-circuit television footage of sexual acts. Yet another video, *Road Rage*, is due out soon.

The spin-off into television is clear. *Police, Action, Camera!* can trace its parentage to the *Police Stop!* video. It was used by the ITV network to go head-to-head with *EastEnders* during the Olympics, and though beaten into second place it still attracted a healthy 9.1m viewers with its spy-in-the-eye view of police car chases.

But for the television viewer who can get all the violence and thrills they want from films and television dramas, what is the added attraction of real-life productions which often suffer from relatively poor quality?

James Hunt, of David Donaghy Associates, behind *Everyday Operations*, believes the popularity has been partly

inflated as a result of politicians' anger at trying to ban them.

But he admits there are other reasons. "People prefer to see reality on TV, because it's the next best thing to reality. And what is wrong with reality?"

He also maintains that many serve an educational purpose. "If anyone gets entertainment from watching executions then I feel sorry for them," he said. Barrie Goulding, whose company EduVision helped produce *Caught in the Act!*, admits there is a strong element of voyeurism.

"I think you can trace this back to *Candid Camera*. The general public does not want to see people come to harm. But witnessing someone in a real situation from afar is fascinating."

Victor Perkins, lecturer in the Film and Literature Department at the University of Warwick, believes there is a problem of "confusion of purpose" over what is information and what is entertainment.

But he accepts there is natural curiosity in people wanting to see real-life dramas, as viewers test themselves over how they would react. "Wanting to see how people behave in extremes is not necessarily deplorable."

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news

NHS cuts 'put specialist patients at risk'

NICHOLAS TIMMINS,
Public Policy Editor

Government attempts to cut NHS bureaucracy will put the care of patients with complex conditions at risk, Britain's top specialist hospitals have warned. Stephen Dorrell, the Secretary of State for Health.

In an attempt to cut the £22m administrative bill for sending patients to hospitals with whom health authorities do

not have contracts, the NHS Executive is proposing that from next April district general hospitals should control the budget referrals to specialist hospitals.

The so-called tertiary referrals could involve a consultant at a district general hospital sending a patient on for highly specialised assessment and treatment at hospitals such as Great Ormond Street and the Moorfields eye hospital in central London, and specialist

centres in neurology, orthopaedics and cardiac care.

At present, that money is controlled by health authorities. But the NHS Trust Federation is warning that giving the cash direct to district general hospitals could well lead to consultants facing pressure from managers not to send patients on for second opinions, or to doctors being encouraged to attempt complex treatments themselves.

The protests are being led by the specialist hospitals who fear

their future may be put at risk as they lose business. But the implications are so serious that they have been backed by the NHS Trust Federation, which represents all 450 NHS trusts.

"Consultants in secondary units with relatively tight budgets might, for financial reasons, be encouraged to undertake work which would be more appropriately undertaken in a specialist unit," the federation has told the department. Local hospitals might also be tempt-

ed to establish their own units for conditions which are too rare to allow local consultants to build up the necessary expertise. The change also "has the potential to compromise the patient's right to a second opinion", the federation has warned the department.

Dr Alan Dawson, chief executive of the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital, said he believed the proposal was "disastrous" both in terms of extra paperwork from a move in-

tended to cut bureaucracy "and because of the undue influence it will bring on doctors' decisions on whether to refer".

The Royal National received patients needing specialist orthopaedic and spinal assessments and treatment from consultants in 150 different hospitals over the past four months alone, he said. With rare conditions, "there is good evidence that people who do things often do them well. But you can easily imagine a finan-

cially motivated chief executive, or a consultant whose budget is tight, being tempted to try something themselves rather than spend the money referring a patient on for what would in fact be the best treatment".

He also argued that a move aimed at cutting bureaucracy would paradoxically increase it. Many of the referrals to specialist hospitals are one-off, outside existing contracts. But each also holds contracts for a given volume of cases with

some local health authorities. In future, every case will have to be billed separately.

Robert Creighton, Great Ormond Street's chief executive, said the proposals have caused "extreme concern about the quality of patient care and future viability of specialist units". There were bound to be temptations to retain work which could include the treatment of rare cancers, spinal surgery and other treatment which ought to be done in specialist centres.

Anger at use of patient in Rantzen row

MICHAEL STREETER

The award-winning BBC reporter who attacked Esther Rantzen's new programme for sloppy journalism over its portrayal of a home for the incurably ill was himself accused yesterday of "sensationalism" by the family of another patient.

In his criticism of *The Rantzen Report*'s "unfair" portrayal of the home, *Panorama*'s John Ware cited the case of former colleague Ian Smith who had received "wonderful" care from the staff. He contrasted this with the "misleading" way the programme had highlighted the case of another patient, Ian Parker.

Mr Ware wrote of Mr Smith, who was brain-damaged in a skiing accident, getting years of devoted and loving care "which I have witnessed".

Mr Smith's girlfriend, Jan Chokawa, told *The Independent* yesterday she and her family were "incensed" by claims Mr Ware knew the full history of the case. Mr Ware had not sought their permission to write about his former *Panorama* colleague, had visited him only once at the home to write the story, and had misrepresented his medical background.

Ms Chokawa, 38, a dubbing editor, said: "The fact that he has used Ian as an example of wonderful loving care is frankly completely objectionable. He is using Ian to promote this home in a way we would not have done. The family are incensed."

Ms Chokawa said Mr Smith's mother Wendy was also angry that Mr Ware's article in the *Sunday Telegraph* had claimed doctors had at first found "no sign of activity in his brain".

"I do not know where that information came from - doctors have never said that. It's sensationalism."

She said the first she had known about the article being prepared was when the home rang to say that Mr Ware was to visit Mr Smith to read to him. Then Wendy Smith was contacted by the home to say that Mr Ware was writing a "favourable" article.

"She was upset that permission was not asked, as she would not have given permission. Ian does not have the choice to say whether he wants to be written about."

Writing in yesterday's *Independent*, Esther Rantzen said she was "shocked" by Mr Ware's attack, in which he accused her programme of having the "potential for seriously damaging the BBC's reputation for fair-minded journalism".

Ms Rantzen wrote in reply: "To be attacked without being given any chance at all to defend myself, my production team, the participants in the programme or the programme itself seems to me a perversion of the truth, a twisting of the facts."

The very public row between two senior BBC figures reflects a serious debate within the organisation about the direction of fact-based programme-making.

The British Home and Hospital for Incurables, south London, which is reporting the programme to the Broadcasting Complaints Commission, said it was unhappy that *The Rantzen Report* had given them little or no warning it was preparing a critical story.

John Ware could not be reached for comment.

BBC2's new chief promises more comedy

MATTHEW HORSMAN
Media Editor

Mark Thompson, controller-designate of BBC2, said yesterday that he would take high risks on high quality drama and would develop more cutting-edge situation comedy like *Absolutely Fabulous*.

Speaking for the first time about his plans for the BBC's minority-taste channel, Mr Thompson, 38, used the closing session of the Edinburgh International Television Festival to make a commitment to factual and arts programmes, even the return of shows such as *Arrest* and *Monty Python*.

Mr Thompson said he would build on the work of his predecessor, Michael Jackson, who is to be controller of BBC1. "What Michael has done brilliantly is broaden the appeal of the channel," he said. "In the past there was a perception that it was slightly middle-aged but he has brought in younger audiences."

The channel needed more situation comedies, Mr Thompson said. He added that he was prepared to be patient. Programmes such as *Men Behaving Badly*, rejected by ITV, could find an audience over time, and "something good will work with audiences if you stick with it long enough".

Newsnight would remain a "anchor point" and would not be moved. Broadly, BBC2 should be about "story-telling", he said: the best programmes, particularly factual ones, were those with strong narrative drive.

Mr Thompson added that he would like to concentrate on event television, which might include opera or rock festivals. He would also like to try to get the Grand Prix back from ITV.

He conceded that the launch of Channel 5 in January would increase competition for both BBC2 and Channel 4. "They will be competing in lifestyle and leisure programming, because they haven't got the budget for big drama," he said.

The reaction from delegates was largely positive, with one producer calling Mr Thompson's plans "proof he knows the BBC's strengths and weaknesses."

There had been some criticism that Mr Thompson, currently controller of factual programmes, did not have the experience to run BBC2.

The festival continued to be dominated by the BBC's campaign to increase the licence fee, and discussion of its costs. It is understood that the drama department could be a target. Channel 4 worth £1.1bn, page 14

Matthew Horsman, Media, Section Two

Fishing rights: The Queen enlisted in campaign to have rare caviar-bearing species reintroduced



Biting back Robin Goforth at his sturgeon farm in Doncaster. Whitehall is blocking his efforts re-establish the fish in local lakes.

Photograph: Peter Byrne

Mighty sturgeon caught up in battle royal

STEPHEN GOODWIN

Two stuffed fish in Doncaster's municipal museum and Her Majesty the Queen have been enlisted in a businessman's attempt to get the mighty sturgeon reintroduced to the waters of south Yorkshire.

Landing a sturgeon would rank high in most anglers' dreams. The caviar-bearing fish can grow to 11ft and "tail-walks" out of the water like the fighting giants of foreign seas.

The sturgeon is also a royal fish. In the 14th century, Edward II decreed that any caught in English waters must first be offered to the monarch. A 200lb specimen caught in the Humber estuary was accepted by the Queen in 1953.

Robin Goforth, who owns Hayfield Fishing Lakes, near Doncaster, would like to be able to offer the palace more sturgeon but has been thwarted by the Environment Agency (EA)



Big catch: Hooking a sturgeon, which can grow to 11ft, would be any angler's dream

and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Last week he wrote to the Queen begging her, in suitable language, to "prevail upon Your Ministers that they may reconsider their decision".

The Ferrari-driving entre-

preneur applied in 1994 to introduce 200 sturgeon of up to 8in to his two lakes. He already stocks 32 species of fish in the lakes which attract some 2,000 anglers a week. But despite scaling the project down to 20 fish, the experts at the ministry

and the National Rivers Authority - as the EA used to be known - were not persuaded.

For two years, Mr Goforth found himself engaged "in a game of ping-pong" with two government agencies while paying for advice from a third

- the farm advisory service. Armed with a warrant, officials paid a surprise visit and spent hours netting the lakes. "It was like a drugs raid," Mr Goforth said.

But the little sturgeon had been returned to a fish pond and aquarium supplier. Like carp or other fish species, they would have grown to whatever size was natural to their environment. "In my lake they would probably have got to the size of a large carp, say 30 or 40lb."

Sturgeon were regularly caught in the Don until the turn of this century. But because of the installation of locks and weirs, together with pollution, they ceased swimming up from the sea to spawn in rivers.

Two stuffed six-footers in Doncaster museum have been central to Mr Goforth's case. But the EA claims the fish he wanted to introduce were hybrids and that the lakes are on a flood plain.

"There was a very real threat that if there was flooding, sturgeon could get into the river. We really could not be sure what the effect would be on competing fish and whether there would be a risk of disease," said an EA spokesman.

Mr Goforth countered that he would comply with any quarantine conditions, and, anyway, the EA did not know whether his sturgeon were native-type or not. Now he awaits a reply from the palace. "I do believe Her Majesty is on holiday, but I understand there will be a reply," he said.

Richard Lee, the news editor of *Angling Times*, has caught sturgeon in stocked lakes in France and does not think anglers would have many qualms about their reintroduction. "The majority just like getting their string pulled. Catching a real tail-walking monster would make most of them jump for joy," he said.

Man thought he would drown in quicksand

A man who cheated death by minutes after spending a night trapped in quicksand yesterday described the moment he thought he was going to die.

Terry Howlett, 29, who was neck-deep in water when he was pulled from the sands at Morecambe Bay, Lancashire, said he had realised as dawn was breaking that the tide was coming in fast. "I thought, that's it."

I'm just going to have to sit and wait for the tide to come and wipe me out," he said.

Mr Howlett, a former naval engineer, had left his home in Darlington on Saturday evening for a night out in Carnforth, Lancashire.

After "a few beers" on the train and a pizza in Carnforth, he went for a walk on the beach "to clear my head".

"I'd been walking for about half an hour when I came to a gully on the beach and that's when I realised my feet were sinking," he said. "I was just trying to get out but I kept getting in deeper. I was panicking and paddling like crazy."

"When I got up to my waist I stopped trying. The mud set like concrete around me and I was trapped. I wasn't sinking any more but I couldn't move."

Mr Howlett began screaming for help but his shouts were lost in wind and driving rain. "The rain was coming down in buck-

ets and it was freezing cold. I just tried to keep still and keep myself warm," he said. "I kept shouting 'Help. For God's sake someone get me out.' By this time the dawn was breaking and I was worried that the tide was coming in. I had my back to the sea so I couldn't see it but I knew it couldn't be long."

A farmer, Anthony Gardner, 54, eventually heard his screams and called the police. Mr Gardner, his wife and Pc Ian Nickson fought in vain for 20 minutes to pull him out with a rope before calling in reinforcements.

Mr Howlett next remembers being surrounded by people as fire, police and paramedics worked with the "Mud Team" from Ardside coastguards to pull him free as the tide raced in. "I suddenly noticed there was water everywhere," he said.

Mr Howlett was treated in hospital for hypothermia and shock.

DAILY POEM

Sonnet I

By Michael Drayton

Like an adventurer seafarer am I,
Who hath some long and dangerous voyage been,
And called to tell of his discovery,
How far he sailed, what countries he had seen;
Proceeding from the port whence he put forth,
Shows by his compass how his course he steered,
When east, when west, when south, and when by north,
As how the pole to every place was reared,
What capes he doubled, of what continent,
The gulfs and straits that strangely he had passed,
Where most becalmed, where with foul weather spent,
And on what rocks in peril to be cast!

Thus, in my love, time calls me to relate
My tedious travels and oft-varying fate.

Michael Drayton (1563-1631) was a prolific writer and poet whose works were finally edited into six volumes in the 1930s. Little is known about his life, but he died in poverty and it was only through the efforts of Lady Anne Clifford, who sponsored his tomb, that he came to be buried in Westminster Abbey.

He was a historical poet, a teller of tales - his most famous being the "Ballad of Agincourt" which opens with the lines: "Faire stood the winds for France / When we our jules ad-vaunce." His sonnets can be found in the *New Oxford Book of Seventeenth Century Verse*, edited by Alastair Fowler.

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Match 6 (Jackpot)	7	£1,095,100	£7,665,700
Match 5 plus bonus ball	31	£76,046	£2,358,666
Match 5	2,040	£722	£1,472,880
Match 4	98,072	£33	£3,236,376
Match 3	1,757,736	£10	£17,577,360
TOTALS	1,679,886		£30,538,092

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سكوا من الامم

They smoke too much and drink too much. Men really are behaving badly – and only women can save them

Gender gap: New research looks at how the different ways the sexes think and act affect their health

NICHOLAS TIMMINS
Public Policy Editor

Men behave not only badly but dangerously and so far we do not really know why, according to a report from the Royal College of Nursing today.

Living with a female partner improves a man's health, the study by the college's Men's Health Forum says, while widowed, divorced and separated men are more likely to smoke or drink excessively – no data are available for homosexual couples.

Men are less likely to visit their GP and those who do tend to do so less often than women. Yet in-patient stays in hospital and out-patient attendances are higher for men in most age groupings, probably in part because they put off seeking medical advice for longer. Also, possibly for the same reason, they die younger than women.

The forum, which links 40 organisations ranging from the British Medical Association to charities, medical and mental health groups and the Confederation of British Industry and the Trades Union Congress, said that most research has focused on biological differences between men and women. But men's beliefs, behaviour and attitudes – as both consumers and providers of health care – may be at least as important.

Men tend to see their bodies as machines, focusing on being fit, strong, energetic, physically active and in control. Women are more focused on avoiding ill health, and put greater stress on diet and rest than on exer-

cise. Men are less likely to seek help for problems, and indeed find it difficult to do so because of their need to feel in control and self-sufficient.

Many men also report finding a conflict between their job and their health needs, while lack of employment and the absence of a partner may play a part in the steady rise in the number of suicides among young men.

Despite their belief in being fit and active, men are in fact more likely than women to smoke, drink too much and be overweight.

On top of the differences in their own behaviour, health professionals also seem to react differently to patients with the same symptoms – men tend to be perceived as less ill and women to be exaggerating their symptoms.

Although women have higher rates of mental illness than men, the latter make up the majority of substance abusers and are more likely to be diagnosed as being paranoid, anti-social or schizoid.

Most of the work on men's health has concentrated on biological differences, the report's author, Trevor Lloyd, said. But "in the explosion of interest around men's health, there has been very little examination of what men think and how their behaviour affects their health."

"If we can begin to understand men's risk-taking behaviour, health professionals will be much better placed to tackle the health needs of men more effectively."



Home truths: BBC1 shows Neil Morrissey and Martin Clunes as *Men Behaving Badly*, with a lifestyle not designed to appeal to the fastidious

The heightened risks of being male

- Men die younger than women.
- Suicide is four times as common in men as in women.
- Men under 65 have three and a half times the likelihood of coronary heart disease as women.
- Men are more likely to smoke, drink too much and be overweight.
- In childhood, males have higher rates of attention deficit, hyperactivity and conduct disorders.
- Accidents account for 42 per cent of all deaths among 15- to 24-year-old men, and 17 per cent in those aged up to 44.
- Almost one-third of premature deaths in men under 65 are caused by cancer, with lung and prostate cancers the most common cause.
- Testicular cancer has doubled since the early Seventies with 1,200 new cases in 1992, although fatalities are decreasing.



Face of excess: The television character Rolf C. Niesbitt

... and they're ill-equipped for work

BARRIE CLEMENT
Labour Editor

The growing image of men as feckless, inarticulate and unemployable receives robust confirmation in other reports today.

Men are seen to be more impulsive than women, less organised and experience greater difficulty in reading.

Women are better qualified than men, who have a "mental block" over training, and the gap is likely to widen, according to vocational education specialists.

colleges in the area – a trend which the council believes reflects the national situation.

Commenting on the findings, Peter Stratton, a psychologist at Leeds University, argued that men were falling behind because of their general approach to life.

"Research shows that women are more likely to plan ahead and prepare for what they want to do," he said.

"Men are more impulsive, looking for activities that provide high levels of sensation, taking risks and taking things as they come rather than planning. Men are therefore less likely to start on something which offers long-term satisfaction. They are less likely to book in advance for courses, so they may well be finding the courses they want

to do are fully booked."

Dr Stratton said that college enrolments might also be affected by the different experiences men and women have at school. "Boys are more likely to have had trouble academically, especially with reading, and generally find school more uncomfortable than girls," he said.

"As adults they are more likely to find it difficult to read things they don't find immediately interesting."

"Men may well therefore be put off by the demands of reading in adult courses – and also by the needs of communication. Women are more verbally fluent. Eight times as many men as women suffer from stammering."

much of their training at work, but as male-dominated industries decline men have to start organising themselves to learn new skills.

Sandra Furby, of Future Prospects, a training organisation, who helped to retrain men after the closure of the ABB carriage works in York last May with the loss of 700 jobs, said that many males seemed to have a "mental block" when it came to training.

She added however that while the men had not been keen to get involved at first, once they were persuaded, their response was "wonderful".

Ms Adams said that motivating men to go on courses was a major challenge for society. The TEC would devote increasing resources to see if courses could be made more

attractive to men, "but men have got to meet us half-way".

She added: "If men want even to keep up with women, they've got to start learning in their own time. All our research shows that within days, far from being a chore, it will become one of the most satisfying experiences that one can have."

In a study of the local labour market, the TEC found that the decline in the male economic activity rate was mainly explained by men giving up the search for work before the official retirement age of 65.

There had been a significant increase however in the proportion of women of all ages up to 60 in the labour market. That was explained by the increasing number of jobs in the service sector and more part-time work and self-employment.

Tests show children years behind at 11

FRAN ABRAMS
Education Correspondent

Gillian Shephard criticised gaps in achievement by 11-year-olds as "unacceptable" yesterday after a study suggested that some children were four years behind the expected level.

The Secretary of State for Education and Employment said that evidence compiled by a government adviser vindicated her decision to publish league tables based on this year's tests for the age group. "Wide variations in achievement between schools and education authorities are unacceptable," she said.

Mrs Shephard said that underachievement by large numbers of 11-year-olds was not caused by a lack of resources. "It costs as much to teach a good lesson as a bad one. If many education authorities can achieve good results, they all can," she said.

Her comments followed an analysis of last year's test results by Dr John Marks, a right-wing member of the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority. His study, published yesterday by the Social Market Foundation, found that the average 11-year-old was two years behind the expected level in maths and 18 months behind in English.

The best 3,000 schools were more than a year ahead of the worst 3,000 in English and more than 18 months ahead in maths. Within each local authority area, there was an average gap between the best and worst schools of almost four years in English and five and a half in maths.

Dr Marks analysed data from the Department for Education and Employment of the test re-

sults of 500,000 11-year-olds in spring 1995. Evaluations of the tests published earlier this year had already suggested that pupils were not achieving as well as they should be at 11, and the chief inspector of schools had echoed this in his 1995 annual report.

However, Dr Marks has also compared the performances of girls with those of boys, and worked out which local authorities are achieving the highest and lowest scores. He found that in maths, 16 per cent of girls and 19 per cent of boys had failed to reach the level expected of the average seven-

'Analysis of the pupils' results reveal a shocking degree of underachievement'

year-old. In English, 9 per cent of girls and 15 per cent of boys had only achieved that standard.

Comparing different authorities, Dr Marks found that 77 out of 107 areas had at least one school where the average 11-year-old only reached the level of a 7-year-old in maths. Those with the highest scores were mainly the more prosperous, including Richmond, Kensington and Chelsea, all in London.

Those with the lowest included the London boroughs of Tower Hamlets and Barking and Dagenham, and Birmingham, Manchester and Bradford. He said the findings showed a "shocking" degree of underachievement. "There should be

less saying who's to blame and more focusing people's minds on what can be done," he said.

David Blunkett, Labour's education spokesman, said that Mrs Shephard's response was inadequate. "What we need now is the use of reliable statistics as the foundation for direct action to improve standards by sharing best practice from succeeding schools with those who are struggling," he said.

Last night no one at the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority appeared to know anything about the study, but officials said their analysis of the results, published at the end of last year, had pointed to similar findings.

David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said that although guidelines said children should reach national curriculum level four by age 11 there were no national targets for what proportion should do so. He said he had been pressing Mrs Shephard for some time to work out targets with teachers' organisations. Children's test scores clearly needed to be improved, but he fully expected results of tests taken in spring 1996 to be better than last year's.

Almost 8,000 students have found university places through the clearing system for this autumn, the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service said last night. As the latest official lists, published in today's *Independent*, went to press there were no places left in medicine, veterinary science or dentistry but there were vacancies in law, psychology, languages, science and engineering. About 19,000 courses were still out full; 237,400 students had been accepted.

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international

Hillary sets the Clinton bandwagon rolling

RUPERT CORNWELL
Chicago

This week Hillary Clinton comes back. Back home to Chicago, where today's Democratic First Lady grew up as a teenage organiser for Barry Goldwater in the rich and staunchly Republican suburb of Park Ridge. And after more than a year in Washington's political equivalent of purdah, back into the public eye.

Yesterday, gay and confident, Mrs Clinton was all over Chicago, addressing a women's caucus and a panel on child

THE US
PRESIDENTIAL
ELECTIONS

care, visiting a poor Hispanic district and opening a park, attending fund-raising events for female Democratic candidates and giving scores of interviews. Tonight she addresses the convention in prime time, selling her husband just as hard as Elizabeth Dole sold Bob Dole in her tour de force in San Diego.

For months, the standard

wisdom has been that Mrs Clinton's endless embroilment in the Whitewater controversy, and her leading role in the disastrous attempt in 1994 to reform healthcare, have made her a political liability to the President, the most unpopular First Lady in memory. For reasons both obvious and subtle, that may no longer be the case.

For one thing, Republican attacks against her are now increasingly counter-productive, not so much because they seem like cheap political bullying but because they turn her into a political lightning-conductor,

drawing criticism otherwise directed at her husband.

Most Americans think she has been less than truthful over Whitewater, but her approval ratings in a CNN/Time magazine poll yesterday were exactly divided, 47 to 47. A month ago, disapproval led approval by 14 points.

And among many party activists, she remains a heroine. Like Eleanor Roosevelt (with whom it was recently revealed to much ridicule, she has held imaginary conversations), Mrs Clinton is her husband's social conscience. As such, she has

massive support among core Democratic constituencies, including minorities, old-fashioned liberals and professional women – all groups which are unhappy with the rightward shift of her husband as he seeks re-election.

A former co-chairwoman of the Children's Defense Fund, Mrs Clinton has surely been worried at the welfare reform measure signed last week by her husband, which removes automatic federal aid for children living in poverty, and which was described by the Fund's president, Marian Wright Edelman,

as "a moment of shame". The First Lady, of course, does not go that far.

But her unease is palpable. Will children suffer? "I don't think so," she told CBS yesterday. "I have confidence that the President will fix those parts of the bill. There was an opportunity he saw to change this welfare system, which everyone knows isn't working well. I'll be watching, along with a lot of other Americans."

And she concludes: "All of a sudden, the era of criticism without responsibility is over. Now that welfare has, in effect,

been handed to the individual state, people have to ask themselves, what can we do now?" Exactly the argument of the President himself, who insists the signed bill is only "the beginning of welfare reform".

Plainly she will have a visible role in the forthcoming campaign – although no longer touted by her husband with his celebrated pitch from 1992: "Vote for me and get one free." Nor, she says, will she seek tonight to emulate Mrs Dole's bravura performance at the Republican convention, when she went down among delegates

on the floor like a talkshow host. Her speech was still "a work in progress" yesterday, but it will focus on children's and family issues.

As for the Republican attacks against her – as Mr Dole suggested in San Diego that her book, *It Takes A Village*, was closet socialism – Mrs Clinton affects indifference, dismissing them as partisan sniping against her husband. "I really don't pay much attention. Politically, it benefits them to attack me." Of life in the goldfish bowl of the White House, she said: "I don't regret a minute of it."

Prescott leads Blair drive on Chicago

JOHN CARLIN
Chicago

Over tea and cakes at a downtown Chicago hotel, John Prescott, the deputy leader of the Labour Party, added a new word to the English language. "You can't Clintonise British politics," he said.

The occasion was a reception on Sunday afternoon to celebrate the launch of the Chicago branch of the Labour Party – one of a host of events on the fringes of the Democratic Party National Convention extravaganza.

What, Mr Prescott was asked, did he mean by the word "Clintonise"? Did he intend it as a compliment? "No, I didn't," he replied emphatically. "It means that you are more concerned with images than with ideas." The Labour Party had tried that game in the 1992 British election and it had failed. The lesson from that failure, he said, was that "you cannot win simply on image and presentation, you have to put forward ideas".

There again, Mr Prescott added, betraying a little confusion as to the exact meaning of the word he had just coined, "If Clintonisation meant winning elections, I'd be in for that."

It is with this second possible meaning in mind that Mr Prescott has come to Chicago at the head of a Labour delegation whose mission it will be to pick up some tips, in anticipation of the election in Britain, from the Democratic Party's master campaign strategists.

To announce the delegation's arrival in the Windy City, Mr Prescott hit upon the stratagem of staging an event to honour the founding of Labour International's Chicago branch – the fifth of its kind in the US, the other four being in Washington, New York, Boston and Los Angeles.

A local expatriate, Jackie Navin, hosted the proceedings. Ms Navin said that Labour International boasted 250 members in the US, Worldwide the number was 1,100 "and growing all the time". Mr Prescott added that international membership of the party was growing as fast as the party in Britain, with more than 40 branches in 40 countries. A document headed "Your vote could make a world of difference" revealed that Labour International had offices in, among other places, Colombia, Benidorm and Slovenia.

Mr Prescott, aware that the Conservative Party has displayed more resourcefulness than Labour in the past in courting overseas British voters, said that expatriate Labour votes could make the difference between victory and defeat in marginal parliamentary seats. In the last general election there were a few constituencies where the number of registered overseas voters was greater than the size of the Conservative majority. Therefore, he said, the branches of Labour International were not being constituted merely as social clubs. "They can

have a very considerable political effect," he said.

Just how valuable an electoral resource Labour voters abroad could prove to be was demonstrated, Mr Prescott said, by the fact that some 10 million British expatriates were scattered around the world. "About a million are estimated to be in the United States."

Accompanying Mr Prescott was Chris Smith, the party's health spokesman. Mr Smith, acknowledging that the UK had much to learn from the US on such matters as the information superhighway and the environment, described the function of Labour International in the US as "essential", intimating that it could serve as a sort of unofficial foreign intelligence service for the party.

Just how essential the role of Chicago might be in ousting John Major's government appears to be a matter of debate, however. Sunday's audience, treated to an hour and a half of Labour speechmaking, was attended by 60 people, a quarter of whom were representatives of the media; a quarter MEPs; and a quarter representatives of the local British Consulate General. The remainder appeared to be potential British voters.

As to the size of Chicago's newly formed Labour International branch, Mr Navin, its guiding light, would not reveal the precise number, that had signed up. Presumably, he said, "Upwards of 20 are considering joining."



One man and his dog: Checking security for the Democrats' convention at the United Center, Chicago, last night

Photograph: Seth Perlman / AP

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A name for everyone
jostling under the sun

SURABAYA DAYS

Having a double-barrelled surname can be an inconvenience when abroad, especially one rich in Rs and Ls, and especially in Asia. "Richard" most people can just about manage, but "Lloyd" is pushing it a bit, and "Parry" is frankly asking for trouble. In Indonesia, this is the first thing everyone wants to know. Taxi drivers, waiters, museum attendants – no transaction is complete without the question: "What is your name?"

At first I compromised with simply "Richard". But after a couple of days in Surabaya I decided it was time to come out of the closet.

"Hello mister!" said the man sitting next to me in the market café. "What is your name?"

"Richard Lloyd Parry," I said, apologetically. "And what is your name?"

"Bambang Edy Santosa Soeyitno," came the reply. Never again will I consider my name a problem. For oddity, unwieldiness, and sheer unpresentability, nothing can match the names of Indonesia which seem to embody the unpredictability of the whole country.

The Justice Minister is Oetoyo Oesman. The opposition leader is Megawati Sukarnoputri. There is a photographer called Alfa Bravo. Skimming the bylines in the *Surabaya Post* I find Herman Basuki, Oei Eng Goan, Fatchur Rozy, Hyginus Hardoyo, and Dja Weiman San Andries. Almost everyone sounds like a character in a Thomas Pynchon novel.

The cornucopia of names is only part of the story. Geographically, linguistically, and ethnically, Indonesia is more like an empire, or a solar system, than a nation state. The islands were diverse enough before the arrival of Indians, Chinese, Arabs, Portuguese, Dutch, British, and Japanese, colonising, proselytising and trading. One reckoning counts 365 Indonesian languages and 300 separate ethnic groups. My guidebook lists 33, from the Batak to the Yali. That such a mixture manages to coexist under one flag is remarkable enough, but, predictably, it is also the source of some lively prejudice.

Even after a few days in Surabaya, you get a glimpse of these sentiments, and of the ethnic and religious land mines waiting to explode beneath the unwary traveller. Surabaya is Indonesia's second city, and like second cities all over the world, it has a mingled envy and contempt for the pampered yuppies of the capital. But Surabaya is also a capital – of the East Java region, and just as Surabayaans despise Jakartans, so they are also held in contempt by migrants from the outlying islands, and even by the inhabitants of other East Javanese cities.

"My parents came from the Moluccas," I was told by one Surabayan, "and maybe it's just me, but I can't get used to East Javans. They're arrogant people, and quite touchy too."

Indonesian-Chinese, and I sprinkle it with Japanese salt (Ajinomoto), and American pop (Fanta) bottled under license in Jakarta. The man sitting on my left is a naturalised Arab of Abyssinian and Iraqi parentage. He introduces me to his friend who came to Surabaya from a town in the jungles of Irian Jaya, and has thick fuzzy black hair and an almost African complexion.

His ambition is to go back to Holland, where he once worked, and marry a European woman. He asks me if I know any girls I could introduce him to, but is embarrassed by his English. "If only you spoke Dutch," he says, "then we could talk properly."

After breakfast, I head towards the market. The stalls groan under the produce of the islands: cinnamon sticks, tubers of ginger and ginseng, baskets of cloves, nuts, garlic, tomatoes, cabbages, coconuts, bananas, papayas and chilis. At the far end is a stall selling a variety of sex toys and aphrodisiacs – creams, sprays and transparent packets of Chinese oodoms. Most repulsive are a pile of penis rings, made out of the skin and bristly hairs of an indeterminate animal.

Outside the market is a sluggish river in which a group of small children are washing themselves. "Hello mister!" they shout as I pass. I wave back, and lean on the bridge to look down into the murky waters. A shoal of turds floats out from beneath the bridge and bobs gently past the children.

I cross the bridge and at last find a familiar sight: yellow arches, chrome and glass, and inside a party of children throwing Big Macs at one another. Almost sentimentally, I stumble through the McPortals, avid for air conditioning and predictability. A Chinese girl takes my order of French fries; her badge identifies her as Rita and she urges me to have a nice day. "What's your name?" asks Rita in an American accent. "Where do you come from?"

My friend speaks

Dutch to his wife, Indonesian to his children and Javanese when shopping

Not as touchy as the Madurese, though: those Madurese you've really got to look out for. They are stupid, uneducated people and easily aroused. Anything gets them excited, anything. But they hate us Moluccans as well."

My friend was born and grew up in Surabaya. He speaks Dutch to his wife, Indonesian to his children, and Javanese when he goes shopping. His name is Yan Paul Kost Soerjadi. Our conversation was conducted in schoolboy French.

This impression of almost ridiculous diversity is borne out by a stroll through Surabaya. I take my breakfast in a café close to the main market. More than anything, it reminds me of the space bar in *Star Wars*: a gathering place for life forms from all over the universe. It is in an old Dutch colonial house: on the walls are framed Muslim prayers in Arabic. The food is

Scandal of Nazi massacre cover-up

WIWE KARACS Born

Perhaps the German judges who tried and failed to track down the war criminal Erich Priebke were too highly qualified for the job. What other conclusion can one draw from the revelation that the three Nazi hunters employed by the prosecutor's office in Dortmund were Nazis themselves?

Some poachers make good gamekeepers, but not the three senior officials who were in charge of Priebke's file between 1947 and 1973. Evidence of Priebke's guilt in the murder of more than 300 Italian civilians was established at the trial in Italy of SS Commander Herbert Kappler in 1948. Our three diligent public servants, now dead, fled them away in the original Italian case closed.

The Justice Ministry of North Rhine-Westphalia confirmed yesterday that the oversight might not have been entirely unconnected with its Nazi-hunters' brown history. Eight senior officials in the Dortmund prosecutor's office had belonged to the Nazi party before the war. Of the three who were directly involved with Priebke's case, one had joined the National Socialists even before Hitler came to power in 1933; the other two joined soon afterwards. Two of the three held a rank in Hitler's storm-troops, the SA. "From today's point of view, their employment seems scarcely understandable," conceded then Land Justice Minister, Rolf Krummiek, last year.

The documents and the political controversy have again come to light following Priebke's trial in Italy. He was found guilty of murder, but his crime was deemed unpunishable under the 30-year statute of limitations. Hermann Weisinger, the official now in charge of the Dortmund war-crimes unit, said last week that prosecutors had all the documents they needed to indict Priebke, but that the case had been inexplicably bungled.

After Italy's failure to send Priebke to jail, Germany now wants him extradited.

Richard Lloyd Parry

هكذا من الاصل²

ling

...like a talk-show host, speech was still a work of art. He'd play a well-chosen children's song and then



Scandal of Nazi massacre over-up

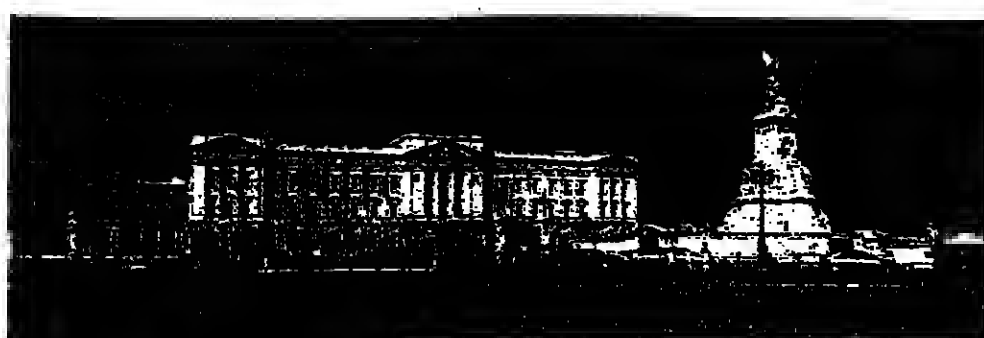
PARAC'S

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Marble Arch.
The Mount Royal, W1.



Buckingham Palace.
The Royal Westminster, S.W.1.



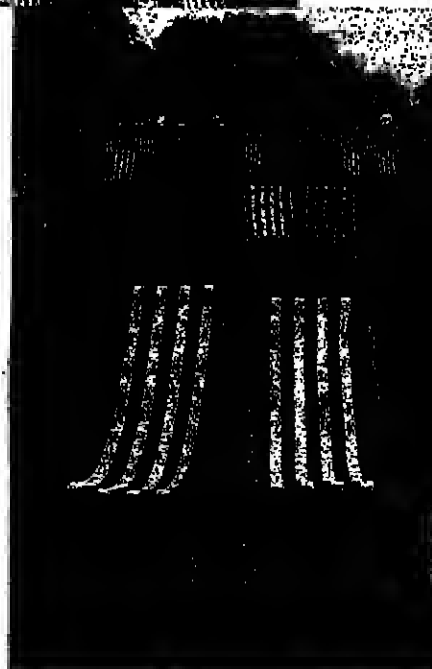
Tower Bridge.
The Tower, E1.



The Royal Horse Artillery.
The Royal Horseguards, S.W.

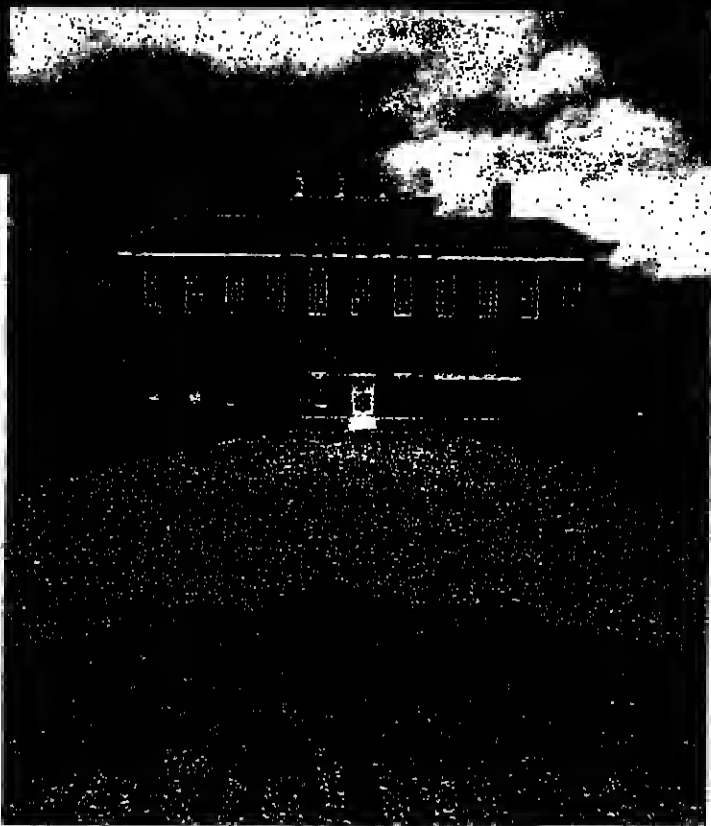


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international

Korean trial: Ex-leaders, generals and top businessmen convicted of bribes and treason

Former president sentenced to death

RICHARD LLOYD PARRY
Tokyo

The former president of South Korea, Chun Doo Hwan, was sentenced to death by a court in Seoul yesterday for his part in the 1979 military coup. His successor, Roh Tae Woo, 13 former generals, and nine of the country's leading businessmen also received prison terms of up to 22 years at the climax of the most dramatic trial in modern Korean history.

Both former leaders faced multiple charges for their role in three separate scandals. Their troubles began at the end of last year when first Roh and later Chun were indicted for accepting bribes totalling hundreds of millions of pounds during their periods in office from 1980 to 1993. They were subsequently charged with plotting the coup of December 1979 which brought Chun to power, and with the massacre of student pro-democracy demonstrators in the city of Kwangju in May 1980.

Both men were convicted of mutiny, treason and corruption, although Chun was acquitted of murder because it could not be proved that he gave the direct order to shoot the Kwangju demonstrators. Roh was sentenced to twenty-two-and-a-half years, less than the life sentence sought by the prosecution. Thirteen of their former generals were given sentences of 4 to 10 years; and

several former government officials and nine businessmen, including the chairman of the mighty Samsung and Daewoo groups, received lesser jail terms for their part in the bribery scandals.

In the scale of the evidence, and the rank of the defendants, the five-and-a-half month case was record-breaking: the biggest criminal case in South Korean history. There were 34 separate sessions, the judge's verdict was 200 pages long, and a truck had to be used to transport the 160,000 pages of evidence from the prosecutor's office to the Seoul District Court.

Ten full generals, one lieutenant-general, two major generals and three brigadier generals were among the defendants. The symbolic drama of seeing such men in handcuffs and prison overalls was intense. Tickets to the small public gallery changed hands for as much as 1 million won (\$800) each on the black market.

But from the beginning it was clear that the trial had as much to do with domestic politics as with past events. The decision to bring the former presidents to justice was taken by President Kim Young Sam, Roh's successor and protégé, who is Korea's first civilian leader for 32 years. He spoke of it as a crusade, "to show the people that justice, truth and the law are vividly alive in this land". But, until a few weeks before, he insisted there should be no witch



The mighty fallen: Former presidents Chun Doo Hwan (right) and Roh Tae Woo joining hands in court Photograph: AP

hunt, and said the perpetrators of Kwangju should be left "to the judgement of history".

It turned out to be an inspired U-turn. In spite of insinuations from the opposition, Kim fought off suggestions that he had benefited from Roh's slush fund, and pulled off a narrow majority for his New Korea

Party in April's parliamentary elections.

Although the spirit behind the convictions is undoubtedly just, President Kim has had to cut a few legal corners to achieve them. A special Bill was passed allowing the agents of the coup and the massacre to be prosecuted. The lawyers of

Chun and Roh seized on this legislation to mount a fierce defence. Both men denounced the trial as "a political circus" and, although the South Korean judiciary is officially independent, there was never any doubt that they would be convicted.

Even if the sentences are upheld on appeal, no one be-

lieves that they will be carried out in full. President Kim, no doubt, will find it useful to pardon or parole his predecessors before his term expires in early 1998. He may even consider it prudent - to execute former presidents who failed to live up to their office would set a drastic, alarming precedent.

Nuns held in Sudan for spreading Islam

Nairobi (Reuters) — Rebels are holding six Catholic missionaries, including three Australian nuns, in south Sudan on charges of spying and spreading Islam, the Church said yesterday. The Catholic Information Office in Nairobi said that Australian Sisters Moira Lynch, 73, and Mary Batchelor, 68, American Fr Michael Barton, 48, and Sudanese Fr Raphael Riel, 48, were being held in prison by the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA). Australian Sr Maureen Carey, 52, and Italian Brother Raniero Is-

comella, 28, were being held in a mission compound.

The SPLA has been fighting Khartoum's government forces since 1983 in the mainly Christian south for greater independence from the Muslim north. The separatists have been weakened by splits since 1991, and two factions have signed a peace pact with Khartoum.

The Sudanese Catholic Information Office said the SPLA's Nairobi office attributed the detentions to a local commander and added that the missionaries would be freed.

Bosnia elections: Izetbegovic's hardline ruling party set to win again

Muslims in overdrive as Sarajevo prepares to vote

CHRISTOPHER BELLAMY
Sarajevo

Someone in the Transport Department ordered the name of the ruling Muslim party to be marked along the route to Sarajevo in white paint. The letters SDA appear with striking regularity and official neatness on the tarmac on both sides of the road north from Mostar to Sarajevo.

At first I did not believe they could be the initials of a party. I thought they might stand for "Sarajevo - direct access", to celebrate the opening of the city, which was under siege for three and a half years.

But no. Vote SDA is what it means. It was as if a senior figure in the British Department of Transport had marked "Vote Conservative" on the carriage-way all the way along the M1. Sarajevo was also mystified by the appearance of the letters a week ago. "I thought the city traffic authorities had introduced some new sign," said Bakir Arnautovic, an electrician. "It was only when I saw one of those SDA signs on the side of the road that I made the connection. When I did, I realised there is no hope," he joked. "They did a phenomenal job - to cover all the road from Mostar to Sarajevo in one night".

In the centre of Sarajevo the SDA - Stranka Demokratice Akcije, or Party of Democratic Action - has posters everywhere, the initials in a strangely oppressive green, with a grey crescent moon. They are regu-

larly put over other posters.

Mr Arnautovic will vote in next month's poll, with reservations. "These elections are happening too soon," he said. "I like Haris Silajdzic (the former Bosnian Prime Minister and main candidate for the Muslim seat on the three-man presidency after President Alija Izetbegovic).

"I don't know what is hidden behind those leaders. I couldn't follow their work in the economy. That is why it is too soon for these elections."

The sophisticated inhabitants of Sarajevo are not typical of Bosnian voters. Tens of thousands of refugees swarmed into the city during the war and are expected to ensure Mr Izetbegovic's hardline SDA wins again, as it did in 1991. Mr Silajdzic's party is likely to come a close second. After the

siege, from April 1992 to November 1995, native Sarajevans have been exposed to more "Western-style media than most Bosnians. But the parties do not engage in fierce debate on television or at the hustings. "It's just a list of candidates. I have to work until about 10 at night, so there's not much opportunity to follow it on TV and radio," said Mr Arnautovic.

"Most leaders of the big parties have promised to lead us into Europe. In fact, they'll only lead us carrying a swag-bag into Europe."

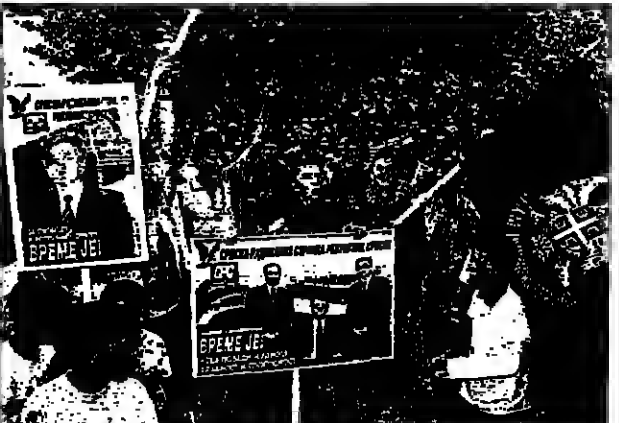
Some voters asked what most concerned British voters in an election and I said it was probably the economy and personal prosperity. "I still don't know who I'll vote for," said Neven Cica, a paramedic. "I didn't recognise any party which showed us they had any eco-

omic programme which would provide for us a normal life tomorrow. I hope in the next 20 days I will read somewhere or see someone who will present a programme. At the moment I like the Stranka Privrednog Prosperiteta (Party of Economic Prosperity)."

Fifty-five parties are taking part. But the ruling parties - the SDA for the Bosnian Muslims, the HDZ for the Croats and the SDS for the Serbs - are expected to carry the day. The results are seen as less important than the legality of the elections and the way they are carried out.

The Dayton peace deal enshrines the right of people to cross into areas from which they were forced to flee from, in order to vote. In fact, the electoral machinery reinforces the division of Bosnia into two separate "entities". In practice, people who cross the border to vote may waste their votes. "They are only puppets who are used for the campaign," said Mr Cica. "Most refugees have no clue how they will vote and how it will end finally."

The Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe, which is supervising the elections, is bringing in 1,200 monitors. They appeared to be on the verge of cancelling the local elections, represented by one of the five different coloured ballot papers voters will face on 14 September. But under US pressure the provisional election commission delayed making a decision until this week, by which time it will be probably too late to cancel.



Vote catchers: Supporters of the Serbian Radical Party of Vojislav Seselj at a rally in Han Pijesak, east Bosnia

Tuna ship mutiny leaves 11 dead

RICHARD LLOYD PARRY

Japanese coastguards are investigating an apparent mutiny on a tuna ship which left 11 people dead.

Maritime Safety Agency (MSA) officials received conflicting statements from survivors on the *Pesca Mar*, a Honduras-registered vessel found drifting 330 miles south of Tokyo on Sunday.

It was reported missing on 3 August after the Korean skipper, Choi Ki Thek, radioed to another ship that his Chinese crew members were refusing to work. Later the mutineers apparently threw overboard the

skipper, six other Koreans, three Indonesians and one Chinese.

Yesterday the *Pesca Mar* was under observation by two MSA ships. The mutineers were locked in their cabins, having been overwhelmed by other crew members. "We have never dealt with a mutiny of these proportions," said Tomohiro Inami, of the MSA. "We're getting so many different stories on what happened out there it's going to take a while before we know what went on."

The situation is complicated by a muddle over jurisdiction. The Japanese coastguards intercepted the ship in interna-

tional waters. Although it is registered in Honduras, it sailed from the South Korean port of Pusan, and is managed by a Korean fishing company on behalf of Omani owners. The majority of the dead were South Koreans, and it is thought the perpetrators were ethnic Koreans from China.

Yesterday a diplomat from the South Korean embassy visited the Japanese Foreign Ministry and asked for the ship to be handed over. "With someone dead on the vessel, we can't tow the ship anywhere until someone first conducts an investigation," the MSA spokesman said.

A maritime police officer in Pusan said the mutineers were driven to act by harsh working conditions. "The captain of the boat reported that fishing was not possible because ethnic Koreans were refusing to work and he had set sail for Samoa. The mutiny seems to have occurred immediately, because all communication was lost soon after that." Korean businesses in Asian countries from Vietnam to Indonesia have been dogged by problems with their workforces. Rising wage expectations among their own nationals have forced Korean skippers to recruit increasingly from poorer countries.

SIGNIFICANT SHORTS

Germany's most conservative region, Bavaria, may be taken to the federal Supreme Court because of its new abortion law. The decision by the Justice Minister, Edzard Schmidt-Jortzig, threatens a constitutional crisis and could undermine Chancellor Helmut Kohl's coalition government. The law, which sets strict guidelines for abortion and allows searches of homes and practices of doctors who do abortions, has outraged rights organisations but so far escaped government censure. Bavaria is ruled by the Christian Social Union, which is under Mr Kohl's leadership in Bonn. But the liberal Free Democrats in his cabinet have broken ranks with their coalition partners over the Bavarian law. Mr Schmidt-Jortzig, a Free Democrat, is seeking the support of opposition MPs to take the matter to the Supreme Court. Without government support, he needs the backing of a third of all MPs to mount a challenge. The vote is expected this week. *Inure Karacs - Bonn*

Alexander Lebed, Russia's peace-maker in Chechnya, was left in the lurch again by Boris Yeltsin when the President went on holiday rather than to discuss rebel proposals for a settlement. He left Moscow for his residence at Kus, 60 from the capital even though the key issue of the republic's status. Although the general's aides said a meeting may yet be held later yesterday, it is becoming clear that the President is keeping Mr Lebed at arm's length, possibly to pressure the Chechen separatist leadership, but also because the two men's relationship has cooled. Two months ago, Mr Yeltsin talked of Mr Lebed as his possible successor. Now, alarmed perhaps, by his protégé's growing power and outspoken manner, he remains aloof. *Phil Reeves - Moscow*

Thailand hopes to revive the notorious Second World War railway featured in *The Bridge on the River Kwai* to improve trade and tourism. The plan is in the study stages, but officials hope Japan and its wartime opponents will contribute to reconstruction of the line between Bangkok and Rangoon, in Burma. Reopening the "Death Railway" could remind painful memories for survivors. Construction of the 280 miles of track was one of the darkest chapters of the Second World War. Some 16,000 Allied POWs and 100,000 Asian slave labourers who built the line died of disease, malnutrition, torture and at the hands of Japanese troops. The 1957 film depicted the brutality Japanese troops inflicted on British prisoners building a bridge to serve the railway. *AP - Bangkok*

A former police colonel accused of multiple murder and other apartheid-era crimes was convicted of five of the killings. Eugene de Kock could still be found guilty of more of the 121 charges against him. Judge Willie van der Merwe only got through the first five charges before stopping for the day. De Kock, 48, commanded a police unit accused of carrying out murders, attacks and intimidation against anti-apartheid figures. He is the highest-ranking police officer to be convicted of apartheid-era crimes against opponents of the former government. *AP - Pretoria*

Investigators arrested a senior police detective in connection with their inquiries into Belgium's child sex scandal. "Georges Zicot was arrested and will be charged with truck theft, insurance fraud and document forgery," Public Prosecutor Michel Bourlet said. *Reuters - Neuchateau*

A 17-year-old Egyptian got more than he bargained for when a woman he had spread rumours about hit off his tongue. Alaa Hassan met his fate when the woman, Bothaina Ahmed, 39, persuaded him to help her in the fields in their village in the Nile Delta. She began kissing him and then hit off his tongue. She said Hassan had been spreading rumours about her alleged immoral behaviour. In the village. *Reuters - Cairo*

A drunken Swede who commandeered a shopping trolley and collided with a car is to be charged with careless driving, police said. The 20-year-old man was travelling downhill in the southern Swedish town of Motala when his unattended trolley hit the car at an estimated closing speed of 30mph. He was released from hospital with minor injuries and a serious hangover. *Reuters - Stockholm*

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THE INDEPENDENT

CARDINAL RULES ARE MADE TO BE BROKEN

This Saturday The Independent Magazine publishes a 16 page Essential Guide to American Football in association with the NFL

THE NFL STARTS SEPTEMBER 1ST
WILL YOU BE FOLLOWING THE ARIZONA CARDINALS?

the leader page

Taste should reel in the video extremes

The banning of a video, *Everyday Operations*, showing NHS patients under the knife and selling for £12.99, is a resonant and difficult event. The video sounds disgusting, offering 53 relentless minutes of flesh-slicing, the sort of material that most people flinch from when it comes in brief glimpses in documentaries or hospital dramas. We admire surgeons partly because they can do their work without passing out - "clinical detachment" is the phrase. Yet this film of eye operations, gynaecological probes, brain surgery and so on, seems to have been made for a kind of entertainment. Its makers defend it as "serious education" but this begs the question, education for what? Doctors don't need it. Very few patients could stomach the thought of seeing their own operations played back to them. So it seems likely that, if it were released, this film would become, in practice, "education" for strange-minded voyeurs - which would be, as the British Medical Association's ethics committee put it, "deeply distasteful".

As a one-off story it would be bizarre enough. Whether or not *Everyday Operations* is widely shown will be decided in the courts. But it is a resonant story, a story of our times, because it follows hard on the heels of other distasteful use of real-life footage for entertainment. Last summer a video

was released of executions. There have been commercial videos garnered from surveillance cameras, from police car chases and from official footage of the aftermath of murders. As we report today, plans are under way for a video of prostitutes in action.

And these are merely the controversial examples of a much wider use of home videos, surveillance cameras and commercially shot material from news teams that is making its way into the entertainment market. As the video becomes ubiquitous throughout the richer societies, covering much of our public lives (in our offices, shopping streets, parks and sporting facilities) and in many of our private and family lives too, it is very hard to imagine this trend being reversed. It isn't that we are simply a society of voyeurs. We are also, it seems, a society of exhibitionists: the things people are prepared to discuss publicly or have themselves filmed doing would baffle and outrage our grandparents. (And quite a few of our parents and children, too.)

Where will it stop? With people filming their sex lives and selling the result? No, that is already old hat, though not yet in the local video store. With the arrival in Britain of the television celebrity court case, *OJ Simpson*, they would have faced a home secretary with ample powers to punish them. Now satellites have the power to

operations, disaster - we are, it seems, pretty near there already. Part of the reason is the dispersal of broadcasting power that has occurred because of technology. In the old days, the broadcasting world was simple and politically controllable. BBC and ITN news teams regularly shoot pictures of war and disaster, for instance, which they deem unroadcastable. But had they gone ahead and broadcast them, offending enough MPs, they would have faced a home secretary with ample powers to punish them. Now satellites have the power to

beam hundreds of channels down, cutting across national boundaries. The Internet has created a cyber-bazaar through which the foulest and most degraded videos and fantasies can be exchanged. And the comparatively crude technology of the video-recorder, combined with hire shops on every town corner, provides a huge consumer and retail network for the lesser stuff.

On the face of it, politicians who try to intervene are spitting in the wind. We are a filmed society, saturated by recording. And if the film is available

in a free-market country, it will be marketed by someone to someone. Humans are an incorrigibly nosy lot - part of the reason for our relative success on this planet - and it is a little too late to legislate the trait away. So if the material is going to be readily available, and the market for it isn't going to disappear, isn't the struggle against this form of voyeurism and exploitation a forlorn one? Are not politicians talking about taste an anachronism in the free-choice technological democracy of the 1990s?

We certainly shouldn't be frightened of curiosity and we shouldn't think that everyone's standards must be the same. But an idea of taste is very useful even to diverse societies, though precisely what "distasteful" means will change all the time. "Taste" does in a delicate, private, cheap and subtle way what law and government do so expensively and crudely: it sets social limits, helping us rub along together, and so improves human happiness. So to shun these films, harangue their makers and ridicule the people who buy them is useful. Nor are politicians entirely defenceless; laws on privacy and copyright have some effect, as have the residual powers of censorship, which have kept some of the most degrading material away from casual cinema-goers and video-store browsers. Absolute censorship is

impossible and undesirable. So although the battle to control the worst excesses of technologically advanced voyeurism cannot be won, it is a battle worth fighting. Lose your sense of what is tasteful and you are a lesser creature.

Camilla 4 Charles

Camilla Parker Bowles is, it seems, rather keen on Prince Charles, and he on her. This is not, admittedly, new news. It is very old news - though readers of *The Independent* have been spared lengthy tracts on the subject by those port-complexioned giants of modern journalism, the "Royal-watchers". But it seems the tabloids are generally against her on the grounds that she is (they say) unattractive, divorced and partly responsible for the end of Diana's fairy-tale. But what is a fairy-tale? What about the story of two ageing people who once adored one another, then made bad marriages, then divorced and now, rediscovering their old passion, are hurrying to correct their original mistake? It isn't a saccharine romance. But it is a touching enough tale and we should leave them alone to get on with it - so long as they do not lecture the rest of us in the future.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Police heavy mob reclaims the streets

Sir: Living in Italy in the 1980s, I witnessed what was known as the "strategy of tension". This was a campaign by fascist subversives to perpetrate acts of terror in order to elicit law-and-order measures that would erode civil rights and bring the Italian state closer to the authoritarian model they dreamed of.

Naturally, I never expected to see anything like it in action in Britain, and I still don't, but I saw something disturbingly reminiscent of it on the streets of Brighton on Saturday, when a peaceful protest was brought to a violent conclusion by police tactics. The Reclaim the Streets protest there (Significant Shorts, 26 August) started in a carnival-like atmosphere, heightened by balloons and giant puppets, with people of all ages, including children, taking part. Even the police on duty, who almost outnumbered the demonstrators, appeared to be enjoying themselves.

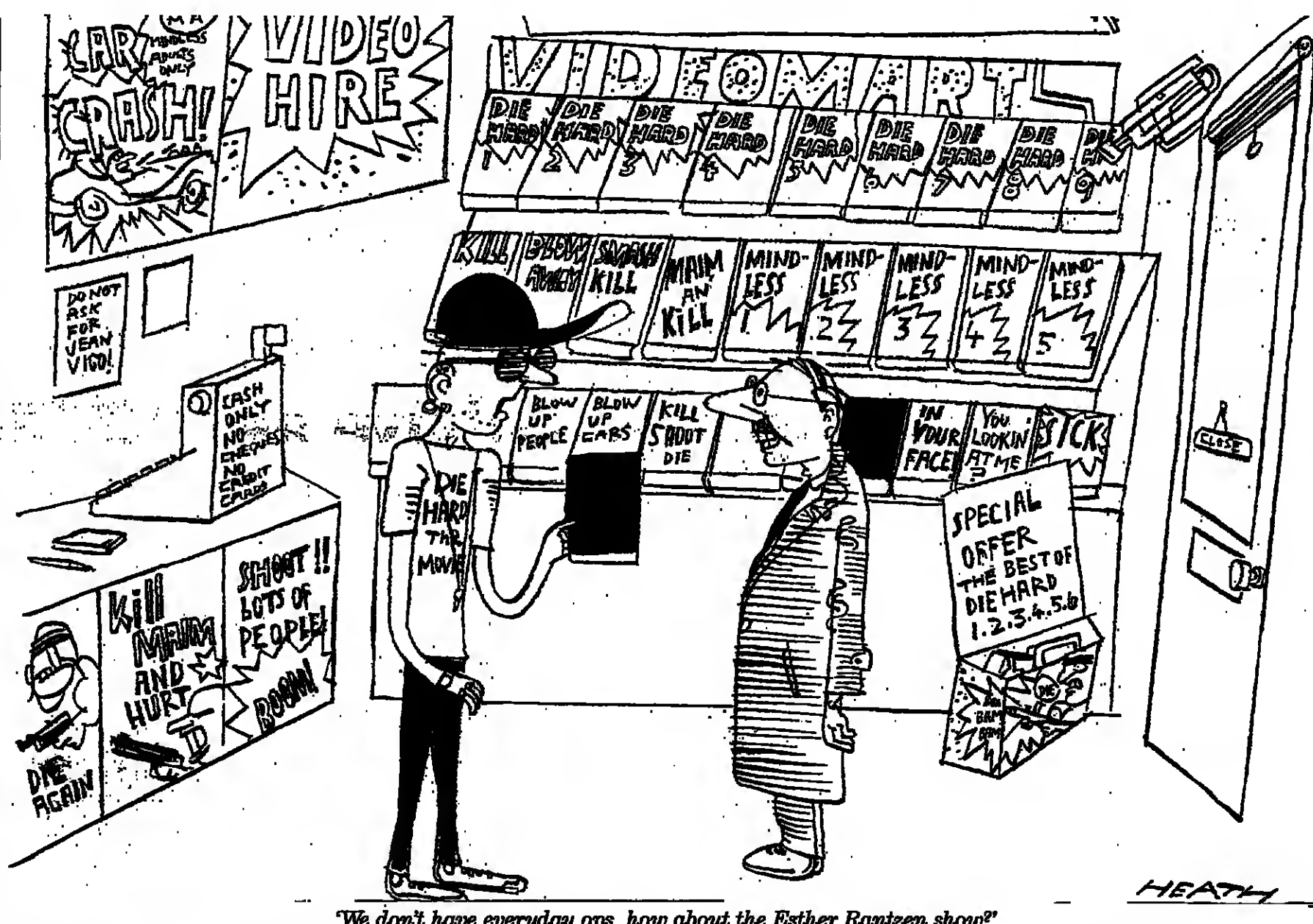
Although the protesters blocked one of the town's main thoroughfares, and indeed were allowed to do so, the demonstration, and the police response, remained essentially good-humoured until someone in the police hierarchy apparently gave the order to send in the heavy boys. The result was not only a ludicrously high number of arrests and a shockingly high number of injuries, but also a diversion of the media coverage from the traffic issue to the law-and-order issue.

In Britain, fortunately, the police are not above the law. Whoever ordered the blood-letting in Brighton could be identified and held responsible for his actions, whether they resulted from conspiracy or from a mere balls-up. Such action, however unlikely, would restore the reputation of our police force as well as reinforce our right to demonstrate peacefully in our streets. **BRYAN MURPHY** Brighton, East Sussex

Risky ventures in the Third World

Sir: Hamish McRae is quite right that Clare Short's post as minister for overseas development in a future Labour Cabinet brings with it great influence ("This really is the best job in the world", 16 August). But few in the developing world would agree with him that official development finance and private-sector "emerging market" portfolio investment are tantamount to the same thing. While the former brings with it a degree of public accountability, in the latter it is generally lacking.

London-based equity portfolio investors, for example, currently finance ecologically damaging timber companies engaged in the logging of biodiverse virgin rainforests in Brazil, Papua New Guinea, Guyana and the Solomon Islands. The financing of a private-sector project such as the Bakun dam in Sarawak (turned down by the World Bank) will involve the removal of 10,000 tribal people from their homelands. A depopulation of City investors to the Bakun site was recently met from their helicopter by indignant local protesters. Few social businesses involving



"We don't have everyday ops, how about the Esther Rantzen show?"

Ban car alarms or expect rage

Sir: The audible car alarm has become an appalling blight upon our urban existence.

They now cease to serve any useful function. Their purpose, as an alert to possible theft, is now largely, if not completely, ignored. The owner is usually absent and the only people disturbed are those living in the street who are unable to switch it off.

Recently in my street the police were called at 3am to "attend" an alarm "audibly malfunctioning". Helpful and polite though they were, they were unable under present legislation to obtain access to turn it off. In plain English, they were not allowed to break in.

I believe it is beyond time for legislation banning these obsolete accessories, preferably before we have a case of "alarm rage". **CRISPIN CALDICOTT** London W2

You ruined my bank holiday

Sir: This is outrageous: on a bank holiday, those of us who are the backbone of the community (fully employed, respectable citizens) look to *The Independent* to provide the well-earned distractions from the rat-race which we deserve. Instead, you publish a full-page feature called "Cycle Logical Warfare" (26 August), suggesting that my generation (born 1940) is locked in to a downward spiral of car-dominated consumerism which does "criminal damage to the planet" and "imprisons our children in their homes", and that our lives are "without soul".

Furthermore, you add insult to injury by printing, on the opposite page, a picture of the leader of the Labour Party and the President of the United States (both good consumers, no doubt, and looking more like entertainers than statesmen) above the legend "Bankrupt Democrats".

Shame! What does *The Independent* think it's doing? Luckily, I have some alternative holiday reading: Christopher Hill's *Liberty Against the Law*, which I saw reviewed in *The Independent* on Sunday yesterday. All about that upstart Winstanley. If his ideas were put into practice, there wouldn't be any bank holidays. Surely *The Independent* isn't suggesting that we should expect to enjoy life all the time? Totally irresponsible journalism. I like it. **DAVID KUHT** London N3

King for a day

Sir: When most public services are subject to competitive tendering, and all properties are expected to turn a profit, why not ask for bids for a five-year contract to be king or queen?

There are the lucrative sponsorship possibilities of Royal Warrants, palaces to be let out and used for corporate entertaining, and the obvious international prestige. The House of Windsor, Rupert Murdoch and others of the fabulously rich might be prepared to pay large amounts to be king for five years. Instead of paying them to do the job, or, as proposed now, allowing them to have free use of the estate ("The Firm contemplates the ultimate privatisation", 20 August), let them pay us for the privilege. **JOSEPH HANLON** London WC1

water purification or health care are ever listed on emerging stock markets. In contrast, at least official flows can be targeted directly at the greatest need.

The future challenge for Clare Short is to ensure that public-sector finance is used to back private-sector mechanisms whose goals are sustainable development and social equity. The UK aid programme is best used to back micro-lending such as that undertaken by the Grameen Bank of Bangladesh, or the transfer to "clean" technology. **MARK CAMPANALE** East Twickenham, Middlesex

Power stations face competition

Sir: The Chairman's Group of Electricity Consumers' Committees wants another investigation of the power generation market ("Consumers call for power investigation", 21 August).

The generating sector of the electricity industry is increasingly competitive and there is more competition to come. When the 22 million smaller customers are allowed to choose their electricity supplier (1998 or soon afterwards) the impact should be felt not only in the supply business but at the power stations, too. That must be a better way of promoting competition than an inquiry by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

But the clamour for yet another investigation may be simply a result of having committee meetings during a hot summer. I wonder if the Consumers' Committees'

offices have air conditioning? Of course, I hope that they do. **DAVID PORTER** Chief Executive Association of Power Producers

ID cards the no-fuss way

Sir: Not counting my visiting cards, my wallet contains eight plastic cards, each with some identifying information on it in a form sufficiently secure to allow me access to services from my bank, my grocer, the Automobile Association and other traders and associations. None of them cost me anything to obtain.

In France already, and in the UK soon, these cards will contain chips capable of holding more information more securely. The Royal Bank of Scotland reports that adding a photograph increases the cost by £1.

If we are to implement positive individual identification on a national scale then it would be far more feasible to include the national ID minimum dataset in each card issued by whichever organisations we already need cards from than to impose a new and expensive one upon us ("Ministers accused of ID card sleazebag", 23 August). Including the data in a public format could even be made a voluntary addition - tick the box on the credit card application to include National Identification if you wish. **Dr A.K. MIDDLELEY** Exeter

Best hospitals for breast cancer

Sir: I must correct one seriously misleading statement in your story about the recently published breast cancer guideline (15 August). The incorrect statement was that outcomes are better when women are treated at hospitals with throughputs of 1,000 breast cancer patients per year. In fact, there is no evidence that treatment in large hospitals leads to better outcomes, although women managed by surgeons who treat fewer than 30 cases per year have been shown to fare worse.

The new recommendations suggest that each specialist breast cancer team should manage at least 100 new cases per year. The figure in your article was ten times higher than it should have been.

Dr ARABELLA MELVILLE Kirk Hamerton, North Yorkshire

Remembering a murdered priest

Sir: Paul Valley ("The killing of a priest", 15 August) calls the murder of the Rev Christopher Gray "the breaking of a taboo" and writes that the only killing of a clergyman in Britain in recent times was of a Catholic priest in Southwark two years ago. All this is true, but perhaps we over-idealise the past. I can never forget the day - 1938 or 1939 - when I read the headline

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"London Vicar Shot Dead" and realised with horror that the murdered man was the Rev C. Sykes, and that he had been shot by a man he had disturbed robbing the church poor box.

A few years earlier, Mr Sykes had been a curate at a church where I was a Sunday school child. My chief memory of him was his air of conviction as he gave out the first line of the hymn, "Jesus lives! No longer now, Can thy terrors, death, appal us".

Perhaps those now mourning Christopher Gray may draw some comfort from knowing that he will be remembered, more than 50 years on, by some of those who are now small children in the Liverpool parish. **MARGOT LAWRENCE** Edgware, Middlesex

The real London

Sir: I found "The brave new metropolitans" (20 August) extremely offensive. But then I live in central London. As do tens of thousands of other families. What's to pioneer?

Yes, the centre of London is a brilliant place but it is mostly the people who live here who make it so vibrant. Who needs the approval of puppets? Their arrogance is matched only by their ignorance of London. The nursery praised in the piece has nothing to do with the Thomas Coram Foundation, although they have consistently provided moral and financial support. It was established for local children by local parents. I was one of them. **FRANCISCA COOPER** London WC1

essay

Scientology is as worthy of belief as Christianity or Judaism. True or false?

When you're suffering from a nasty touch of the dawkins, all religions seem equally nonsensical. Andrew Brown wonders how a reasonable person might distinguish the good from the bad

I think I've got the dawkins: pray for me. It is a terrible condition, named after the distinguished atheist. This is not the ordinary café which descends like a cloud of ravens, but a place where you have to pay attention to an archbishop's thoughts. It is not even the sense of being stuck in a tumble drier half full of rocks that overwhelms me when I read papal encyclicals all the way through and try to follow their logic. It is worse than that. The full-blown dawkins is the state where there seems nothing to choose between any religion. They are all insane, all untrue – they might as well all be Aztecs.

The Aztecs make a wonderful subject for a student of religion since – nowadays – they have neither temples, priests, nor libel lawyers. They never had much use for libel lawyers anyway, preferring stone knives, with which they chopped out the hearts of anyone who displeased them. It was quite an elaborate ceremony and would not nowadays get past the animal rights people if you were a real calf. Yet the Aztecs were undoubtedly sincere in believing that if they did not perform the ceremony every day, the sun would refuse to rise. And they undoubtedly had experiences that validated their beliefs. They

were certain that God wanted them to do these things. Is there any rational reason for supposing they were wrong? If one of my children announced that they were becoming an Aztec fundamentalist, how could I argue that I would prefer him to become a Buddhist, a Christian or Muslim instead?

When I have the dawkins, I believe that there is no rational argument to make; that religions are simply beliefs that people catch, and there can be no reasonable grounds to choose one over any other. This is not to say there are no reasons for seeing some religions as more desirable than others: there are rational, anthropological arguments to be made from the side effects, so to speak, of certain religious beliefs. The Hindu peasant who believes his bullock is sacred will not kill it however bad the famine, and thus may be able to plough when the drought finally ends, whereas his more rational neighbour, who ate the bullock, will starve in the end because he cannot plough. Thus do the gods reward those who follow them.

Even the Aztecs, as the anthropologist Marvin Harris pointed out, had a very ecologically sound religion. Central America in their time had no sources of animal protein larger than a guinea-pig, and though their god might get the prison-

ers' hearts, which were burned, the rest of the sacrificed carcass went to feed the soldiery. This protein bonus kept them motivated, as well as strong: the chief source of sacrifices was captured enemy prisoners, so any soldier on this diet will have known that surrender really was the option of the last resort.

However, the Aztec religion did not survive competition with Christianity. This is not just because flint weapons are no match for firearms. It was also because the Aztec church could not survive disestablishment. Without coercion, people found it unconvincing. So here is one clue as to how we might discriminate between religions: those that have lasted longest and in the most varied circumstances are likely to have something to recommend them, even if it is not immediately apparent what.

Religions do compete and do disappear. It is one of the oddest things about them. The disappearance is obvious: the Aztecs, the Romans, the Greeks, even the druids, have all gone. We do not really know what they believed, or how they believed it, only what they did. Almost everywhere that belief in many gods met belief in one god, monotheism triumphed. This pattern is odd. It suggests that religious beliefs do refer to some kind of metaphysical reality.



PRIESTLEY

The monotheistic religions have also struggled with each other. All have developed rational arguments to keep the waverers within the fold, and to convert unbelievers. St Thomas Aquinas's great summary of the Christian religion was written as the *Summa contra Gentiles*, an argument against the Muslims. In fact all the great religions that we now see have been shaped by competition with others. All of them can give good reasons why the choice of religious belief can be made reasonably and is important. And yet, when one has the dawkins, all these reasons look ridiculous. The mere existence of inextinguishable disputes seems to guarantee that there is something profoundly wrong about all the arguments.

This mood need last no longer than it takes to look at some real examples. Even within religions it is impossible to suspend judgement. An attitude of impartial and indiscriminate scorn cannot long survive contact with Ian Paisley or Morris Cerullo. Surely there must be Christians better than this. Compare the Dalai Lama with the staring-eyed cultists of some Western Buddhist sects, and there is no doubt which is the better Buddhist. I even have a soft spot for the late Ayatollah Khomeini, ever since I read his letter attempting to convert President Gorbachev to Islam. It was remarkably persuasive, lucid, and reasonably argued. Indeed, my own problem with Islamic fundamentalists is that

they put too much faith in logic and expect the world to be more consistent than it actually is. Their arguments are by no means insane. If anything, the fault is that they lack the paradoxical quality which any explanation of the real world would seem to demand.

But it is almost always a mistake to judge any religion by the apparent sanity of the things it asks us to believe. Otherwise there would be no way of distinguishing between, say, orthodox Judaism and Scientology.

They are not yoked together entirely by chance. As

organised demonstrations outside the film *Mission: Impossible* because its star, Tom Cruise, is a scientologist; the German minister of employment has announced that his country is at war with "the giant octopus of scientology".

The German foes of scientology are claiming that its beliefs are so absurd it cannot be a religion. The scientologists claim, with neutral academic backing, that they are a religion, so their beliefs cannot be absurd. Both are wrong.

To become a senior scientologist you have to believe, or

to the great religions as "well-winnowed". This is a way of saying that they address unchanging human concerns and come up with answers that remain realistic.

A new religion tends to argue first that it is true; and second that its adherents prosper. A really confident sect will argue the second point first and lowest, as evangelists do now. But they only become trustworthy after they have abandoned the second point almost entirely.

Under the stress of time and chance and suffering, religions change, and sometimes quite radically. Sometimes this is because of conflicts within their own belief systems, where contradictions suddenly appear. Christianity accepted slavery for most of its history, and had good biblical reasons for doing so. When finally it became apparent to Christians – and it was overwhelmingly Christians who ended the slave trade – that the biblical defences of slavery could not be reconciled with other parts of the gospel message, then slavery went. A similar thing now is happening to Christianity and patriarchy, something which would have come as unwelcome news to the great majority of saints through the ages.

Orthodox Judaism, too, though it may reject historical criticism, has survived a much greater shock in its time: the final destruction of the Jerusalem Temple in AD70 and its replacement by scattered

synagogues. Some such crisis is essential to the maturity of religions. Who can doubt that Judaism is better and richer now without the Temple – and that anyone who expects the Temple to be rebuilt, as prophesied, is probably looking forward to a nuclear war, since its remains are buried beneath the second holiest site in the Muslim world.

The dangers that bad religions can produce show that we must distinguish between good and bad religions. But how can we?

I think we must turn to a second sort of evidence, written in the lives of the believers. Religions all carry an ethical freight. They are injunctions to behave as well as to believe, and, in so far as the two can be disentangled, the behaviour is probably more important than the beliefs. But they cannot be very far disentangled. To a large extent the behaviour is the meaning of the belief. A Pharisaic injunction like "love your neighbour as yourself" cannot be properly understood without being acted on. The action shows you have understood it.

By contrast, the action that shows you believe and have understood doctrines of scientology is to hand over money to the heirs of L. Ron Hubbard, the science fiction writer who made it all up. I think I can see which religion is more reasonable. The dawkins have quite gone away now, thank you.

It is a mistake to judge any religion by the apparent sanity of what it asks us to believe

the scientologists are pointing out every chance they get at the moment, both have been persecuted by Germans this century. But to make this claim involves a wilful blindness to the distinction between democratic and totalitarian governments. There is no evidence that the German authorities at the moment are behaving unjustly. None the less, there is clearly a considerable revulsion against scientology at all levels of German political life. The German post bank is refusing to handle deposits from the cult; various local authorities are refusing to allow contracts to go to businesses controlled by scientologists; the youth wing of the Christian Democratic Union

pretend to believe, that we are all reincarnated alien spirits, persecuted by the ghosts of previous incarnations, which attach themselves to us in the form of body hairs. One can see why the organisation regards the psychiatric profession as a hostile conspiracy. On the other hand, to become Chief Rabbi one must believe, or pretend to believe, that Moses wrote the entire Pentateuch under dictation from God, including the bits where his own death is mentioned. We cannot distinguish between these two belief systems on the point of probability.

Longevity is a better bet. The Cambridge theologian Professor John Bowker refers

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A wee word about the Scots

Scotland really is a different country. They have a different agenda up here. The lead stories in the Scottish papers, for example, are not generally the same as down south. For a week or two there has been a series of revelations about sexual goings-on at Celtic Football Club (youth managers in the past being accused of molesting younger players) which I don't think have hit the headlines in England. Imagine if it were revealed that young players at Manchester United had in the past been sexually harassed by the staff. Imagine what a hoo-ha would arise. Manchester United would be so embarrassed they would probably change their playing strip again. But it being Celtic, the matter comes under the heading of foreign news.

Football priorities are predictably different, too. On Sunday afternoon I was in a pub called the Conan Doyle at the top of Broughton Street in Edinburgh, trying to persuade the bar staff to put up a poster for our show.

putting up Fringe posters." "Ah, but this is different. Look at the title. 'The Death of Tchaikovsky – Sherlock Holmes Mystery'. That's why I've come to the Conan Doyle!" "Well, I don't know, I'll have to ask the boss when he comes in..." And there on the bar TV set was a live football match on Sky, Manchester United v Blackburn Rovers, so I sat and watched it idly for 10 minutes until a large and rather drunken Scot came in and stood at the bar. He looked at the TV. An idea came to him. He commanded the remote control and turned the TV over to Ceefax.

"Hey!" we shouted, in a cowardly whisper. "It's OK," he said, "I just want to see the Hearts result." After a long wait while he drunkenly tried to find it, but could only locate all the cheap holiday offers in the world, it finally flashed up.

Aberdeen 4 Hearts 0. The man slumped on a bar stool.



Miles Kingston

"Oh, shite," he said. "Oh, I canna believe it." He sat staring at the screen in a coma, for minutes. "Could we have our football back please?" someone said. He turned round and stared.

English. In Scotland they have pubs named after Conan Doyle, who was an Edinburgh man. *Why is that?* Another difference is in the language, even in newspapers. Regularly I encounter words in print up here which I have never seen before. "Stouter" and "tanking" are words I have met before, and learnt the meaning of, but already this time around I have come across "buffy" and "bampot" in reputable papers, and have no idea what they mean.

The clincher came yesterday when the papers led off with two attacks on media figures, one by the BBC's Colin Cameron on Kate Adie, the other by John Ware on Esther Rantzen. Mr Cameron was cross about Kate Adie's "forensic" approach to the reporting of the Dunblane shootings, while John Ware was scathing about Esther Rantzen's report on a London hospital.

I wonder if you can guess which news item got more headlines in the English papers, and which got more headlines up here in Scotland? Correct. Dunblane was headline news in Scotland and Esther Rantzen headline news down south.

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We need the BBC, and Auntie needs her friends

There is enough skimping in broadcasting – let's keep the standard bearer

The Royal road to unwedded bliss

The Princess of Wales will be spending a quiet day alone in Kensington Palace tomorrow as her marriage officially ends. Her ex-husband will be with the family at Balmoral. Frankly, what a boring end to the marriage that has provided such amusement to the British people for the past 15 years. The Queen granted a public holiday for the Royal Wedding, so she should do the same on Royal Divorce Day after the endless documentaries, paparazzi abuse, affairs, non-affairs and Will Carling we have all had to endure.

The Prince and Princess would have no shortage of things to do to make their divorce go with a bang. Ceremonies, parties, greetings cards are now all run-of-the-mill for parting couples. Their first port of call should be *Divorce Magazine*, newly launched in America. The first issue offers helpful hints on getting through that difficult transitional period. "Haven't been on a date in 15 years? We'll show you some great new ways of meeting people in the 1990s," blares one headline, although according to most royal scandals that's one area in which neither Charles nor Diana needs practice.

If not content with her £15m settlement, Diana could lead through to money matters to save off boredom: "If you suspect your spouse is hiding assets, here's help finding them – or satisfying yourself that there's nothing to hide." And for Charles there is the indispensable: "How to Do It: The all-sports, swimsuit-illustrated Bachelor Guy's Guide to Housekeeping". But what the royal couple's devoted public needs is public display of lack of affection. The obvious divorce fashion accessory these days is the divorce ceremony – far more satisfactory than a short announcement in court. The Church of England still does not officially condone this, although in May Canon Michael Woods sought to get the practice of "divorce ceremonies" officially recognised by the Norwich Diocesan Synod. The proposal was voted down two to one.

As a future head of the Church of England, Charles might be reluctant to approach the Unitarian Church but they do have such ceremonies well organised. One possible service begins: "After much effort, pain and anger Charles and Diana have decided that they no longer wish to be husband and wife. They still wish to be friends and to respect each other and care about each other." Well, we know they no longer wish to be husband and wife... A simpler way might be just to send a card. "All Good Things Must End... So Do The Bad Ones. Congratulations on Your Divorce" is one example.

But there is one way that both Charles and Diana could profitably spend the day. A Canadian company offers the service of removing exes from photographs "without a trace". Both of them could enjoy Wednesday digitally expunging each other's features and remembering John Kenneth Galbraith's advice: "The happiest time in anyone's life is just after the divorce".

GLENDIA COOPER

The tone of the Edinburgh International Television Festival was set in the opening words by the chairman, an independent producer, his introduction to the lecture by the BBC's director general was not so much a warm welcome as a char-grilling by blow torch.

At the end of his speech the director-general called for the support of the television industry for the BBC's appeal to the Government for the first real increase in the licence fee for 10 years. In days gone by there might have been a rallying round in such an audience. But now his appeal fell upon stonier ground, certainly no inquisitive upsurge of loyalty to Auntie. A new air of lethal and serious competition has entered into this industry that barely existed in the old world of the cosy and somewhat incestuous terrestrial channels. Natural sympathy for the old public service ethos is waning.

Afterwards I found a huddle of ITV producers and executives spluttering and fuming among themselves. Why, they demanded to know, should they support the BBC? Where was the BBC under Michael Checkland, back in 1992, when ITV desperately needed support against the savage selling-off to

the highest bidder of ITV franchises in the Broadcasting Act?

The BBC stood aside and said nothing as ITV money was scooped out of programme-making into Treasury coffers. At the time the BBC was keeping its nose clean with the Government to ensure a renewal of its own Charter.

The next day at a session to discuss the speech, a vote was taken on whether the BBC deserved a bigger licence fee or not. It was almost too close to call, though the moderator opined that the ayes had it – just. It is a small sign of the big battle ahead.

But the television festival is not the best testing ground of public opinion. It is the industry's annual forum for networking and bitching, back-scratching and back-stabbing, with burgeoning battalions of independent hopefuls mingling among the Masters of the Networks. The bars huddle with deals, pleas and proposals. "It's a winning format, absolutely." "Remember me? I wrote to you a month ago..." Elbows are nudged, sleeves plucked, a look of frenetic over-keenness gleams in too many eyes.

For this can be a desperate busi-



POLLY TOYNEE

ness, where programme ideas and scripts lie in unattended piles on the desks of the powerful while phone calls go unreturned. Last year 32,000 young people entered higher education media courses. God help them, for it is a world growing tougher every year. A Granada executive admitted he was making programmes for Sky for under £5,000 an hour, which drew gasps of incredulity. Squeeze, skip and cut is the story almost everywhere. That is why it is so important to make sure the BBC gets the money to make high-quality programmes.

But raising the question at all is dangerous, reminding people of the licence fee's curious status as a regressive poll tax. Not surprisingly David Elstein, director of pro-

grammes at Rupert Murdoch's Sky, made the running in the debate. People should not have to pay it, he said baldly. It doesn't matter that Sky revenues will outstrip the BBC's this year. Let the BBC offer itself to subscribers. The BBC has no divine right, it must find its natural market. And what (crocodile tears here) of the 750 single mothers who go to prison every year for non-payment of their licence?

At the moment a team of inspectors sent in by the Government is examining the BBC's books. Over the next few months a number of seductive alternatives in the licence fee will emerge again from right-wing think-tanks and disingenuous competitors out to bamboozle those politicians with an itch to mend something that isn't broken.

One idea puts a gleam in every commercial broadcaster's eye – a central public service funding agency should commission good programmes right across the airwaves. The BBC would cease to be this monstrous 24,000-strong institution that is often both hell to work for and hell to manage. (Its morale has been "at an all time low" for-

ever, along with the NHS, universities and schools. It is the fate of institutions employing the extra-intelligent to have a miserable and bolshy workforce: they could all run it better themselves). Instead of the BBC networks putting out good but uncommercial programmes such as *Panorama* or *Our Friends In The North*, they might be funded and farmed out to anyone on any network.

Other suggestions abound, but each would quickly lead to a declining quality, as has happened across Europe's public broadcasters where other means of funding have been grafted on.

The BBC's divine right is what gets up the nose of other broadcasters – its sanctimoniousness, its arrogance, its size and power, its dominance. It is well and truly disliked and resented by many broadcasters and politicians. But it is loved and supported by the great majority of the population – and they like it a lot better than they like politicians. It is just about the only thing left that Britain does really well, better than anyone else.

The licence fee may have draw-

backs. But, as Churchill said about democracy, no one has come up with a better idea. It is also astonishingly good value. Half of all listening and viewing is to the BBC – all for considerably less than the cost of one packet of cigarettes every week, a week's supply of the *Sun*, or the £300 it costs for a full Sky subscription. As for the fate of those who end up in prison for non-payment, that is part of the scandal of the way courts deal with debtors – not the BBC's fault. If a future government wants to subsidise television for the poorest that's down to them.

But knives are being sharpened. The Murdoch press, ever eager to promote his real commercial interests in television, is to be watched. (The *Times* immediately trumpeted gleefully on the front page "Birt's Call For More Money Is Rejected", chortling over apparent instant-negative reaction by both Labour and Tories). Both parties are terrified of offending Murdoch before the election, and probably after it too. The BBC will need those who are essentially its friends, inside and outside the industry, to bury their hatchets and admit that British broadcasting quality has always depended on the BBC acting as its guy rope and standard bearer.

Big money deals are starving pop

So, \$80m for REM. But that leaves little change for tomorrow's acts, says Andy Gill

Judging by the colossal deal signed this week between Warner Brothers Records and the American rock group REM, reports in recent years of the "death of pop" have proven, not only premature, but well wide of the target.

The arrangement, which nets the Athens, Georgia-based group a cool \$80m for only five albums, is one of the biggest recording deals ever struck in the music industry, confirming the band's position as one of the most popular acts in the world today.

It is not, however, the largest deal ever struck with a recording artist. That, like most record-breaking feats in the record business, remains in Michael Jackson's domain. Although the \$80m multi-album deal he signed with Sony in 1991 involved not only Jack-

son's own work but also the rights to other artists' publishing catalogues that he had previously purchased, most notably the Northern Songs portfolio containing Lennon & McCartney's Beatles compositions.

As with English football transfers, the Nineties have been the silly season for music-industry deals. Observers were shocked in 1991 when Virgin Records signed Janet Jackson for \$50m and The Rolling Stones for \$30m – although the deals were explained as a means whereby Richard Branson could "fatten up" his Virgin record label with only a few money-spinning stars (Genesis, Phil Collins), before selling it off for around half a billion pounds.

In the film industry, appearances are all-important: accordingly, telephone-number deals are often struck simply to demonstrate to the Los Ange-

les film colony that the studio in question can attract the talent. Much the same holds for the music business. When CBS, for instance, re-signed Bob Dylan, it wasn't necessarily expecting to recoup its entire investment from Dylan's own recordings. It was buying Dylan's position as an artist of great probity, which would be of incalculable help in attracting other artists.

So, too, with Warner and REM, lauded as much for their humanitarian ethos and environment-friendly attitude as for their music. Nirvana's Kurt Cobain, deeply troubled by the conflict between his original punk ideals and the immense success that would eventually lead him to suicide, once regretted being unable to handle the fame as well as REM's frontman Michael Stipe, whom he referred to as virtually a saint. It's that saintliness, as much as anything, on which Warner has taken up its option: in negotiations with young indie or "college-rock" bands, it will doubtless prove invaluable.

But, as with English football once more, big-money deals tell only part of the story. Every \$80m that a label is paying a Janet Jackson or REM is \$80m less in the kitty to develop those young indie bands attracted by



Cool dude: Warner wants REM's front-man, Michael Stipe, for his saintly image. But new bands are squeezed out

the big-name artists. When rock music first became a global mega-bucks business, record labels would routinely sign bands to six-album deals, relying on their artist & repertoire (A&R) departments to develop the band's career over the full course of the contract. Rare indeed was the debut album that made money, or was intended to do anything other than introduce the group's name to the public; indeed, there would be several years of subsidy – through tours, adver-

tising, marketing and further recordings – before the company expected to see a return on its investment.

Now, new bands sign deals for singles, and if the first single doesn't chart under its own steam, they may never get to make an album. It's a myopic, short-term strategy that has resulted in the erosion of the major labels' A&R departments, whose traditional talent-spotting duties are now carried out by independent companies such as Creation and Go! Discs –

which are then forced to sign licensing deals with the majors to finance the development of acts, such as Oasis, that break through to wider audiences.

It's a remarkably similar situation to that of the early days of rock 'n' roll, when local hits on small American labels would be picked up by major distributors for national release. Then again, the stakes weren't quite as high in those days. When Sam Phillips sold Elvis Presley's contract to RCA, he received the princely sum of \$35,000.

RIISING RECORD DEALS

Band	Company	Est. Deal	Year
REM	Warner Bros	\$80m	1996
Janet Jackson	EMI	\$50m	1991
George Michael	Disarm/Virgin	\$30m	1993
Michael Jackson	Sony	\$80m	1991
Madonna	Warner Bros	\$30m	1993
Rolling Stones	Atlantic	\$30m	1991
Beatles	EMI	\$30m	1991

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What we recognise as modern art has one outstanding characteristic: it is not mimetic. That is, it does not seek to create an illusionistic representation of the visible world but rather to establish its own reality as an independent object – its autonomy, in the jargon. With one goes a corresponding emphasis on the purely formal or aesthetic aspect of the work – its character as an autonomous structure of line, form, colour, texture. In modern art, everyday reality may be referred to, or evoked, in ways ranging from more or less distorted or stylised representations to the direct incorporation in the work of "real" objects or materials. Or it may be excluded altogether in favour of some form of abstraction – perhaps the most purely modern art.

Paradoxically, the evolution of art towards this condition can be traced back to the 19th century rejection of the Renaissance tradition of "history" or "high art", by then largely debased in the hands of the academies, in favour of a direct engagement with the real world, especially nature. John Constable is as good a place as any to locate a beginning of this process: in 1828, he wrote bitterly of those who preferred the shaggy posteriors of a satyr to the moral feel-

ing of landscape. He was referring to the members of the Royal Academy who had just failed to elect him to the Academy in favour of William Etty, a painter of "high art" pictures, the ostensible moral content of which, or simply their use of high art motifs (eg nymphs and satyrs), screened their real salaciousness.

Constable's comment evinces a crucial aspect of modern art – its claiming of the moral high ground, initially for an art based on the truth of nature or the everyday realities of life. Later, in the 20th century, art claimed this moral eminence, precisely in the degree to which it was not an illusion and could be seen as an embodiment or emblem of truth – because it was true to itself as a medium and true also to the artist's personal vision, unswayed by the demands of patrons or, indeed, any material considerations.

Let's return to the apparent paradox of a line from Constable's rural landscapes to, say, Mondrian blocks of primary colours. Constable's whole practice was based on working direct from nature; yet rather than producing a smooth, illusionistic image, he found ways to represent what he saw in marks of paint that had a real, physical, anti-illusionistic presence. His contemporaries in England (but

WEEK 4 DAY 2
Modern Art
VISITING LECTURER: SIMON WILSON

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not in France, where he was admired) were completely baffled by this, together with the apparent artlessness, the lack of reference to tradition, of his approach to the motif. "My art flatters nobody by imitation, it courts nobody by smoothness, it tickles nobody by pettiness – how then can I hope to be popular?"

Constable had no successors in England, but in France later in the century the artists who became known as the Impressionists took up the radical practice (inspired by Constable) of painting a whole "finished" picture out of doors. The result seems to have been an increasing focus on the motif as a pattern of light and colour, an increasing emphasis on the brushstroke, and an increasing degree of abstraction (as, for example, in Monet's Rouen Cathedral series or his waterlilies).

From the mid-1880s the so-called Post-Impressionists – Van Gogh, Gauguin, Seurat, Cézanne – took Impressionism in various different directions but consistently emphasised pattern and heightened or exaggerated colour. In 1905, the Fauve group, led by Matisse, startled Paris with paintings in which colour appeared entirely detached from observed reality and in which the motif was rendered, literally, in the broadest brush-

terms. It remained for the Cubists, Picasso and Braque, a year or so later, to dismember the motif itself and set the scene for the emergence of the pure geometric abstraction of Mondrian and the Russian Malevich, about 1915-20. Inspired by Mondrian, another Russian, Wassily Kandinsky had, about 1910, evolved a free-form kind of abstraction. The development of modern art coincided with that of photography. One intriguing view is that in order to preserve the uniqueness of their art (and its value in the market) painters simply had to make it as distinct from photography as possible.

After the Second World War, attempts were made to put modern art into a theoretical strait-jacket, notably by the American critic Clement Greenberg, in the context of the post-war American art known as Abstract Expressionism and its immediate successors. In the Seventies the term "Post-Modernism" was coined to define new art which appeared to ignore or reject the concerns of "classic" modernism. Such art openly embraced popular or commercial culture, and freely plundered the art of the past, recycling its imagery.

Critical debate has raged increasingly ever since. Meanwhile, art sails serenely on... Tomorrow: Opera

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obituaries/gazette

Professor W.J.M. Mackenzie

W.J.M. ("Bill") Mackenzie was one of two or three personalities who shaped the social sciences in British universities in the 1950s and 1960s. In these years he was also an adviser on constitutional development in East Africa and on English local and regional government.

Mackenzie came from a reasonably prosperous family in Dundee and he was always something of a canny Scot. His father was a successful lawyer (Writer to the Signet) in Edinburgh. As a student at Edinburgh Academy the young Mackenzie received a strict training in the classics, something that always showed in later life. He was a high flyer, won a scholarship to Balliol at 16, and had in wait a year before going up in 1927. At Oxford he won more prizes and took a Double First in Greats.

Following the family path he returned to Edinburgh to gain an LLB in two years. He was appointed as a Classics don at Magdalen, Oxford in 1933. But he grew bored with teaching grammar and when the College looked to strengthen its PPE teaching, he switched to being a Politics fellow in 1936. He taught himself the subject, reading voraciously and drawing on his knowledge of ancient philosophy and law. To the end one felt that he found the study of politics congenial because it allowed him to indulge in and profit from his interest in so many other fields.

He was part of the dons' invasion of Whitehall in the war. From 1939 to 1944 as a member of the secretariat in the Air Ministry (1939-44), he was a participant observer of the conflict between Tizard and Lindemann and the debate over the bomber offensive. After the

war he wrote a secret history of the SOE operations in France, which has not yet been published.

His first contact with industrial England came with his appointment to a Chair of Government and Administration at Manchester University in 1948. Few had heard of Mackenzie, who had no publications to his name, but he built up an outstanding Government department which until the early 1960s was the best in Britain and gained an international reputation. He did it by spotting talent: from Aberdeen to Oxford he picked bright young men who were not necessarily political scientists but wished to become so.

At Manchester he created a culture, not of publish or perish, but of intellectual excitement and keeping abreast of developments in the discipline in the United States. In the early 1950s his young colleagues were pioneers in studies of voting behaviour, community power, pressure groups and developing countries. He had a remarkable instinct for where the subject was heading.

Manchester was an exciting place to be in the 1950s. Sir John Barbirolli conducted the Hallé, the *Guardian* was still a Manchester paper and the BBC *Brave New World* regularly there. The University's social science faculty was probably the liveliest in the country. The economists Ely Devons and W. Arthur Lewis, the anthropologist Max Gluckman, the philosopher Dorothy Emmet and Mackenzie argued enthusiastically at weekly interdisciplinary staff seminars. These were exhilarating but also sometimes terrifying occasions for visiting speakers because subject boundaries did not exist for the Manchester polymaths. Mackenzie's view was that politics was best studied in conjunction with other subjects and that other subjects should always be aware of the political dimension.

As well as building up an institution Mackenzie was also shaping the discipline. Perhaps no other professor of politics exercised more patronage. He made many appointments at Manchester but he also influenced the selections for many Politics chairs in the 1960s.



Mackenzie shaped the discipline of political science. Photograph: BBC

now time to return to Scotland and in 1966 he took the Bryce Chair.

Young lecturers at Manchester regarded Mackenzie with reverence tinged with awe. This was due partly to his erudition in so many disciplines, and partly to the exacting standards which he insisted on. It is difficult to imagine a similar relationship in university departments today. I once overheard an elderly academic refer to some of his former colleagues, now distinguished professors of politics (then in their forties), as still "Bill Mackenzie's little boys".

His management of the department was informal and paternalistic. He made the appointments, held few departmental meetings and governed by conversation and memo. It was a benevolent despotism and, again, is almost unimaginable today: those were days when powerful professors could stand up to Vice-Chancellors and win.

He was never an imperialist about the social sciences. He acknowledged, but was not a casualty of the two cultures war between natural science and the humanities. The study of politics could never be a hard science, although this was a useful aspiration. It was organised knowledge, communicable as a set of propositions. He thought that politics dealt with the awkward bits left by other disciplines.

"The job (of political science) is to talk in an orderly manner, paying regard to consistency and verifiability, about a unique situation which is extremely complex and changes rapidly," he wrote in *Politics and Social Science*, his best-selling Penguin (1967). He did not believe that

lectures or even articles should be too worked out. They should stimulate, suggest and leave students and readers to work things out for themselves. A young colleague commented that a number of students did not fully understand his lectures, but did not doubt that they were listening to a great man.

Mackenzie was also one of the "Good and the Great" who staffed government committees, councils and other public bodies. He knew his way around Whitehall but - from his years in Scotland, Oxford and Manchester - also knew the world outside. He always took the view that his academic studies should inform his role as a man of affairs and vice versa. He was a constitutional advisor to the new states of Tanganyika and Kenya. He was one of the new Social Science Research Council between 1965 and 1969, served on the Maud Committee on Management and Local Government (1964-66), the committee on Remuneration of Ministers and MPs (1963-64) and the North-West Regional Economic Planning Council from 1965 until his departure to Glasgow. In Glasgow he was a member of various local and Scottish public bodies.

In 1963 he drew on the austere skills of the classical philologist and his intimate understanding of the ways of Whitehall to write a brilliant full page translation in the *Manchester Guardian* of the 1961 Plowden committee's report on public spending. It began "We proceed on two principles: 'No dirty linen in public, and outside critics are bores.'" He regarded the report as an example of opaque Whitehall prose employed as a device to

allow mandarins to converse in public without being understood.

It is true that he never specialised and so did not produce the great definitive book. But his real qualities were better seen in the acknowledgements and prefaces to articles and books that other political scientists were writing in the 1950s and 1960s. He was a synthesiser, brilliant at making connections across disciplines, ruminating about the state of a field, and suggesting new topics of research. A footnote could move from the classics to a controversy in biology to the mythic aspects of a television soap opera. His qualities were best seen in the scores of essays, talks and seminars which he gave. Some were collected in his *Explorations in Government: Collected Papers 1951-1958* (1975). Often he was oblique and allusive, pointing to puzzles and problems, suggesting new ways of looking at the familiar. This was a very different style from his distinguished successor at Manchester, Sammy Finer, who always liked to have the last word.

Yet his publications were distinctive and heterogeneous. His co-authored *Central Administration in Great Britain* (1957) was an outstanding account of the form and work of British central government. From his interest in Africa came *Free Elections* (1958) and *Five Elections in Africa* (1960), with Kenneth Robinson. His magisterial *Politics and Social Science*, an encyclopaedic study of the field, and *The Study of Political Science Today* (1972) could perhaps only have been written by him. The first explained political science to the social scientist and social science to the student of poli-

tics. He wrote about political theory, political resistance in Norway, Africa, regionalism in Italy, among other things. He was a generalist in the best sense.

His appearance changed little from his forties to his seventies. He had a shock of silver wavy hair, friendly blue eyes, a ruddy complexion and a slow Scottish accent. He had a tall shuffling gait and there was something of the figure of Father Christmas about him. He was a good mixer, humorous, a marvellous stimulator of staff and students, and always welcoming to those from overseas.

He retired from his Glasgow chair in 1974. There followed more books: *Power, Violence and Decision* (1975), *Political Identity* (1977), *Biological Ideas and Politics* (1978) and a study of health care. If they did not attract the attention they deserved, it was probably because the range was too wide for a more narrowly trained generation of political and social scientists.

He married Pam Mayon in 1943. There were four daughters and one son.

Dennis Kavanagh

William James Miller Mackenzie, political scientist; born 8 April 1909; Fellow of Magdalen College 1933-48; War History SOE (part-time) 1945-48; Professor of Government and Administration, Manchester University 1949-55; Professor of Government 1955-66; CBE 1963; James Bryce Professor of Government, Glasgow University 1966-70; Edward Caird Professor of Politics 1970-74 (Emeritus); FBA 1968; married 1943 Pamela Mayon (one son, four daughters); died Glasgow 22 August 1996.

David Donaldson

David Donaldson celebrated his eightieth birthday on 29 June. This event was marked with the publication of his biography, and shortly afterwards with a major retrospective exhibition at the Talbot Rice Gallery in Edinburgh which is currently at Glasgow School of Art. Both the book and exhibition present the wealth, energy and sheer joy of his painting, and it is a tragic irony that, in the midst of these celebrations, the art world learnt of his death.

David Abercrombie Donaldson was a man of contrasts. He was born in 1916 of working-class parents in the industrial lowlands of Scotland. In his own words he was "a wee bastard who was bairned up a close in Coatbridge". Yet, in a distinguished career as a portrait painter, he mixed with the highest of British society culminating in a commission to paint a portrait of Her Majesty the Queen in 1966.

Among the formal honours received by him were Associate Member and then Academician of the Royal Scottish Academy, and honorary degrees from Glasgow and Strathclyde Universities. In 1977 he was appointed Painter and Limner in Her Majesty the Queen in Scotland. His paintings are in the Royal Collection, in most of the major public collections in Scotland, and in private collections across Britain, Europe, Australia, the United States and South Africa.

Without any formal qualifications, Donaldson entered Glasgow School of Art at the age of 15, and he stayed there until his retirement at the age of 65. He progressed from student to part-time tutor to - finally in 1967 - Head of Drawing and Painting.

His own students and colleagues remember him as an inspiring and brilliant teacher who always taught by his own example. "For Christ's sake Morrison you hang pearls round that!" one student recalls being admonished in a life class.

The same student remembers the colour that Donaldson brought in his life and to his painting in the dark years in the early 1950s when rationing still lingered on. Although Don-

aldson could be difficult he had a genuine regard and fondness for his students.

He believed that art should be taught by artists and he had a strong dislike of bureaucracy in all its forms. Rather than working for formal examinations he believed that students should just get on with painting. This was, indeed, just what he had done.

These principles led to clashes with the authorities when, as Head of Drawing and Painting, he was forced to see in changes to the structure of teaching. He fought without success against what he saw as a threat to the integrity of his principles.

Despite these tumults however he is remembered as one of the few Heads who always kept the door of his studio open - for anyone. Furthermore he was "fantastic company" and any other colleague arriving early to the studios would be welcomed by him with streaky bacon rolls and mugs of very strong tea.

In his own work it was the sheer quality of paint and colour that Donaldson loved. He had both a delicacy of touch and an exuberance that rubbed off on everything he painted, whether figures, landscapes, still lifes or allegorical paintings. Both his commissioned portraits, of which there are a great number, and the many paintings of himself, his wife, daughters and models, have a directness and humanity stemming from his relationship to that other human being in his studio, the sitter. He would paint directly on to white canvas, without the use of preparatory drawings.

In the many self-portraits painted during his career he has presented us with insights into the complex character that he was. From the very beginning, usually directed at himself, was a strong element. In *Me*, 1935, a painting done whilst he was still a student, Donaldson portrayed himself as a clown wearing an enamel chamber pot on his head. In 1974, in *Self-portrait with Cactus*, he wears nothing other than a chef's hat with a cactus sprouting out behind. Although we are presented with ridicule we laugh with the artist and not at him. In a later work, *Self-*

portrait, 1986, Donaldson faces us naked in his studio but for a red rose. The humour is still there but the painting strikes a sharper note of self-examination. However, his *Self-portrait in Winter*, 1978, is the most deeply self-searching of the series.

It is a quite a small work (head and shoulders only) and uses no other prop than a flat black cap. In the vein of Rembrandt or Goya, Donaldson has painted himself during the difficult teaching years at Glasgow School of Art when he tried to stand out alone against the changes that were being forced upon him. However, even in the severity of the portrait Donaldson's love of colour remained with him. The delicate touches of pinks and purples enliven his cold face and give a velvety richness to his black jacket and cap. Insight into the artist though this might be, it is first and foremost just a very fine painting.

His landscapes of Scotland or of the South of France, again done directly and *en plein air*, describe the sensuous quality of sunlight, deep shadows or a stiff breeze through olive groves. His allegorical paintings look back to his Scottish background with its deeply rooted knowledge of the Bible and the poems of Burns. Yet in all these works it is Donaldson's sense of the joy of life and living that comes across most strongly.

Another sad irony is that David Donaldson's biographer, W. Gordon Smith, died just the week before he did. However, Gordon Smith's book and the retrospective exhibition at Glasgow School of Art, which continues until 30 August, bear testimony to Donaldson's life and work.

David Donaldson is survived by his wife, Marysja, his son, Sebastian, and his two daughters, Sally and Caroline.

Joanna Soden

David Abercrombie Donaldson, painter; born Christon, Strathclyde 29 June 1916; ARSA 1951, RSA 1962; Head of Painting School, Glasgow School of Art 1967-81; Her Majesty's Painter and Limner in Scotland 1977-96; married 1942 Kathleen Boyd Maxwell (one son), 1949 Marysja Mora-Score (two daughters); died Glasgow 22 August 1996.



Humour with a sharp note of self-examination: Donaldson's *Self-portrait*, 1986

Reinhard Libuda

A remarkable goal scored from the halfway line by Manchester United's young David Beckham ten days ago brought many comparisons with famous speculative shots seen over the years. One that the Liverpool players of the last generation will not forget was the freak drive that defeated them in the 1966 European Cup Winners' Cup final. It was scored by Reinhard Libuda, the West German international.

Libuda, capped 26 times for West Germany and nicknamed "Stan" after Stanley Matthews, was then playing for Borussia Dortmund and the final was at Hampden Park on a soaking evening. Liverpool were growing in stature internationally under the guidance of Bill Shankly and had beaten the famous Juventus and Celtic in earlier rounds before meeting Borussia. However in the 17th minute of extra-time, with the score 1-1, their goalkeeper, Tommy Lawrence, punched the ball out from the edge of the penalty area directly to Libuda who struck an immediate and match-winning shot in from 40 yards. It was not the only time Libuda had frustrated a British team.

Scotland will also remember him for being the player who denied them qualification for the 1970 World Cup finals. Playing against them for West Germany in Hamburg, his speed had the beating of the comparatively slow-turning Tommy Gemmell, and his goal for a 3-2 win ensured that West Germany went to Mexico where he played against England in the quarter-final. England's team of the time began the competition as arguably the best they had ever produced, except that in that crucial match Gordon Banks was absent with a stomach upset and Germany won revenge for their 1966 final defeat at Wembley.

Libuda played his part but with England two goals ahead he was obviously tiring and, in an inspired move by the coach, Helmut Schön, he was replaced by Jürgen Grabowski whose



Libuda: match-winning shots

pace and skill on the wing inspired West Germany to a 3-2 victory in extra-time. Libuda was himself used as a substitute in the semi-final against Italy, who won but were beaten by Brazil in the final. He had to be content with a medal for third place.

West Germany's team of that period relied a great deal on quick wingers. Grabowski was certainly fast and Libuda could be but he enjoyed drawing defenders towards him almost lazily before picking up speed and using his skill for producing accurate centres. He was held in high esteem by the fans, especially in his home town of Gelsenkirchen where at the height of a career that never quite reached the peaks, a large religious text on a wall once claimed "Nobody Gets Around Jesus". A fan added: "Except Libuda".

His career went into sad decline after 1972 when he received a lifetime football ban for bribery. Although the suspension was later lifted, he failed to re-establish himself in the game and drifted into a life of heavy drinking followed by throat cancer. He died in circumstances far removed from his days as one of Europe's most exciting players.

Norman Fox

Reinhard Libuda, football player; born 1942; died Gelsenkirchen, Germany 25 August 1996.

Lev Vlasenko, pianist, died Brisbane, Australia 23 August, aged 67. Professor at Moscow Conservatory for 30 years.

Ahmed Bahaddin, editor and journalist, died Alexandria, Egypt 24 August, aged 69. Head of Egyptian Press Syndicate. Erwin Leiser, film director, died

Zurich, Switzerland 23 August, aged 73. Made documentaries on Nazi war crimes.

Irene Varrink, politician, died Amsterdam, Netherlands 21 August, aged 78. Former Dutch health and environment minister. Advocate of legalisation of soft drugs.

Births, Marriages & Deaths

DEATHS

BLIWELL: Peacefully on 23 August 1996, aged 83, Brigadier Shefford (Ginger) Blawie OBE RA FRUS. Beloved husband of the late Peggy, much loved father of Jane and Georgina and grandfather of Stephen and Catherine. Private family and cremation service. No flowers please but donations if desired to Sister Agnes Foundation, King Edward VII Hospital for Officers. A thanksgiving service will be held in London on a date to be announced.

MACKENZIE: Peacefully at Western Infirmary, Glasgow on 22 August 1996, Professor W.J.M. Mackenzie CBE, Emeritus Professor of Politics at Glasgow and Manchester Universities. Funeral service at Clydebank Crematorium, North Dalnottar on Monday 2 September 1996 at 3pm. No flowers please. Remembered with love by his wife and family.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorials, etc.) should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, telephone 0171-293 2011 or faxed to 0171-293 2010, and are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra).

Birthdays

Mr Jacques Arnold MR 49; Mr Gerhard Berger, motor racing driver, 37; Sir Donald Bradman, cricketer, 88; Chief Mangosuthu Buthelesi, 68; Sir Hugh Byatt, former diplomat, 69; Sir Stewart Crawford, former diplomat, 83; Lord Dorman of Easington, former government minister, 77; Miss Stan Edwards, conductor and music director, English National Opera, 37; The Earl of Eglinton and Winona, former managing director, and deputy chairman, Gerard & National Holdings, 57; Lady Antonia Fraser, author, 64; Mr David Hart, trade union leader, 56; Mr Michael Holroyd, author, 61; Mr Bernhard Langer, golfer, 39; Mr John Lloyd, tennis player, 42; Mr Andrew

MacKay MP a Lord Commissioner of the Treasury, 47; Sir James Molyneux MR 76; Sir Mark Potter, a Lord Justice of Appeal, 58; Viscount Rothermere, newspaper proprietor, 71; The Right Rev Richard Rutt, former Bishop of Leicester, 71; Mother Teresa, missionary, 86; Mr Jack Thompson MR 68; Mr Andy Turnbull, jockey, 48; Mr Robin Warfield, bookseller and publisher, 52; Li-Gen Sir John Watts, 66; Mr Edmund Weiner, lexicographer, 47.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Confucius, philosopher, 551 BC; Alessandro Farnese, Duke of Parma, general and diplomat, 1545; Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel,

philosopher, 1770; Karl Bosch, industrial chemist, 1874; Lloyd Cassel Douglas, novelist, 1877; The Hon. Charles Stewart Rolls, motor manufacturer, 1877; Samuel Goldwyn (Samuel Goldfish), film magnate, 1882; Eric Coates, viola player and composer, 1886; Cecil Scott Forester, novelist, 1899; Lyndoo Baltes Johnson, 36th president of the US, 1908; Martha Raye (Margaret Theresa Yvonne Reed), actress and comedienne, 1916; Deaths: Jozequin Desprez, composer, 1521; Titian (Tiziano Vecelli), painter, a victim of the plague, 1576; Pope Sixtus V, 1590; John George Schwartz, painter, 1874; John Henry Foley, sculptor, 1874; Eugene-Samuel Auguste Fromentin, novelist and painter, 1876; Sir Row-

land Hill, founder of penny postage, 1879; Louis Botha, soldier and statesman, 1919; "Le Corbusier" (Charles-Edouard Jeanneret), architect, 1965; Princess Marina, Duchess of Kent, 1968; Dame Ivy Compton-Burnett, novelist, 1969; Haile Selassie, deposed Emperor of Ethiopia, 1975; Earl Mountbatten of Burma, murdered by the IRA 1979. On this day: Bernhard of Saxe-Weimar lost the Duchy of Franconia at the Battle of Nordlingen, 1634; the first balloon ascent was made in Britain by James Tyder at Edinburgh, 1784; the Declaration of the Rights of Man was adopted by the French National Assembly, 1789; Napoleon defeated the Austrians at the Battle of Dresden, 1813; Algiers, then a refuge for Bar-

bary pirates, was bombarded by Lord Exmouth, 1816; the interior of the Metropolitan Opera House, New York, was destroyed by fire, 1892; the Kellogg-Briand Pact, an anti-war document, was signed by 15 nations, 1928; the first transmission of a television programme from the Continent was made by the BBC, 1930; the USSR launched *Sputnik 3*, carrying two dogs, 1958. Today is the Feast Day of St Casarius of Ailes, St David Lewis, Little St Hugh, St Marcellus of Toul, St Margaret the Barefooted, St Monica and St Pome-

"Fair Game" (v); Velázquez, *Philip IV hunting Wild Boar* (La Tela Real), 16m.

Date Gallery: Colin Cruise, "Home: Romance and Reality in 19th Century Domestic Genre Painting", 16m.

British Museum: Delia Pemberton, "Animals in Ancient Egyptian Art", 1.15pm.

National Portrait Gallery (guided tour): "Beneath the Surface: materials, techniques and studio practice 1500-1877", 2.30pm.

Changing of the Guard: The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am.

Lectures

National Gallery: Mari Griffith,

business

Ladbroke's price canters as punters place bets on good results

Some of the stock market's most avid punters must be a little surprised Ladbroke has survived as an independent company and is about to produce another set of results.

On numerous occasions in the past year the shares have enjoyed frenzied gallops as rumour of imminent takeover action have swirled around.

For a long while the Bass brewing group was seen as the most likely predator. Ladbroke's Hilton Hotels, ran the argument, would slot nicely with Bass's Holiday Inn chain and, Whitehall permitting, the Ladbroke betting shops and the Coral spread would create a powerful betting force.

But Bass became captivated by the thought of recapturing leadership of the UK's beerage and started what turned out to be protracted talks to buy the country's third largest brewer, Carlsberg-Tatler.

Then it was the turn of the US Hilton Hotels Corporation

to take up the running. HHC owns the US Hilton chain. Ladbroke the international Hilton spread. At first it seemed Ladbroke would strike at HHC; then the story was turned on its head with HHC going for Ladbroke. The final - and more likely - version is a trading pact that offers some form of Hilton unity.

Shares of the betting and hotel group ended last week at their highest for three years. Takeover speculation is over for now, but it is Thursday's interim results that have provided much of the impetus. They are not expected to be outstanding. Merrill Lynch is looking for \$62m (\$56.5m) and an unchanged dividend. Some forecasts stretch to £70m.

But there could be some encouraging comments. Chief executive Peter George has been tidying the group and reducing borrowings. Texas Homecare, the do-it-yourself sheds chain, was sold to J



STOCK MARKET WEEK

DEREK PAIN

Stock market reporter of the year

there will be no stopping a gallop to the magical 4,000.

After drifting aimlessly since hitting a peak in April, the market has suddenly got up steam.



moving into uncharted territory. Trading has often been thin and many of the legendary big-hitters are still on holiday. But there is no denying shares are exuding confidence. They seem, for once, to be able to ignore unhelpful developments and dwell happily on more bullish events.

The scent of lower interest rates is in the air and the feel-good factor could become an old-fashioned election boom.

Some brave souls have for weeks been forecasting Footsie will end the month at more than 4,000. Their predictions once looked outrageously hopeful; that is no longer the case. And forecasts on 4,000 for the year-end could even be

wondering whether they will be accused of being too cautious.

Ladbroke is only one of three blue chips reporting on Thursday. The others are Rolls-Royce and Reckitt & Coleman. Rolls' interim results will be distorted by provisions relating to closures and write-offs following its decision to withdraw from its Parsons turbine business. NatWest Securities looks for pre-exceptional profits of £75m compared with £47m. Some forecasts stretch to £100m.

Jo Reedman at NatWest will focus on the after-market for civil aviation spares. "If there is evidence of a sustainable increase in aircraft spares, then there could be further upside for the share price," she said.

Reckitt & Coleman is another to be repositioned. It has sold its food and soft-drink businesses and intends to evolve as a world leader in household goods with such products as

Detol and Harpic. Interim profits could reflect the reshaping.

Reckitt & Coleman is another to undergo a revamping exercise. It has been receiving intensive treatment from Bill Cockburn, the chief executive who used to head the Post Office.

The shares have been surprisingly strong as the market has gleefully anticipated the fruits of his labours. The benefits will not filter through when the group reports its first loss tomorrow. The figures will be heavily distorted by the Cockburn impact with profits emerging at perhaps £85m (against £115.3m), before being overwhelmed by exceptional charges of around £300m.

The shares are just below their 12-month high of 532p. They have climbed from 356p.

The revival programme included paying Boots to assume full ownership of the

troubled Do-it-All do-it-yourself business, and jobs and anything through the vast range of goods stocked by Smith.

Some wonder whether Mr Cockburn will have a few surprises up his corporate sleeve - perhaps even a rights issue.

Others reporting this week include T&N, the specialist engineer still troubled by its asbestos past. In the past 10 years it has paid out more than £300m in claims. Interim profits could be around £60m against £73.2m.

Photo-Me International, the photo booth owner, will benefit from the introduction of identity cards. In the meantime it has turned profits will be lower: around £12.7m against £14.5m expected.

Cairn Energy's figures will attract little interest; its supporters will be more fascinated by developments at its Bangladesh operation. Perhaps the company will have more striking progress to report?

Alcoholic Beverages	Price	Change	Volume
Adnoca	100.00	0.00	100.00
Adnoca	100.00	0.00	100.00
Adnoca	100.00	0.00	100.00
Adnoca	100.00	0.00	100.00
Adnoca	100.00	0.00	100.00

Banks, Merchant	Price	Change	Volume
Barclays	100.00	0.00	100.00
Barclays	100.00	0.00	100.00
Barclays	100.00	0.00	100.00
Barclays	100.00	0.00	100.00
Barclays	100.00	0.00	100.00

Banks, Retail	Price	Change	Volume
Barclays	100.00	0.00	100.00
Barclays	100.00	0.00	100.00
Barclays	100.00	0.00	100.00
Barclays	100.00	0.00	100.00
Barclays	100.00	0.00	100.00

Breweries, Pubs & Rest	Price	Change	Volume
Adnoca	100.00	0.00	100.00
Adnoca	100.00	0.00	100.00
Adnoca	100.00	0.00	100.00
Adnoca	100.00	0.00	100.00
Adnoca	100.00	0.00	100.00

Building/Construction	Price	Change	Volume
Adnoca	100.00	0.00	100.00
Adnoca	100.00	0.00	100.00
Adnoca	100.00	0.00	100.00
Adnoca	100.00	0.00	100.00
Adnoca	100.00	0.00	100.00

Building Materials	Price	Change	Volume
Adnoca	100.00	0.00	100.00
Adnoca	100.00	0.00	100.00
Adnoca	100.00	0.00	100.00
Adnoca	100.00	0.00	100.00
Adnoca	100.00	0.00	100.00

Diversified Industrials	Price	Change	Volume
Adnoca	100.00	0.00	100.00
Adnoca	100.00	0.00	100.00
Adnoca	100.00	0.00	100.00
Adnoca	100.00	0.00	100.00
Adnoca	100.00	0.00	100.00

Engineering Vehicles	Price	Change	Volume
Adnoca	100.00	0.00	100.00
Adnoca	100.00	0.00	100.00
Adnoca	100.00	0.00	100.00
Adnoca	100.00	0.00	100.00
Adnoca	100.00	0.00	100.00

Extractive Industries	Price	Change	Volume
Adnoca	100.00	0.00	100.00
Adnoca	100.00	0.00	100.00
Adnoca	100.00	0.00	100.00
Adnoca	100.00	0.00	100.00
Adnoca	100.00	0.00	100.00

Food Manufacturers	Price	Change	Volume
Adnoca	100.00	0.00	100.00
Adnoca	100.00	0.00	100.00
Adnoca	100.00	0.00	100.00
Adnoca	100.00	0.00	100.00
Adnoca	100.00	0.00	100.00

Gas Distribution	Price	Change	Volume
Adnoca	100.00	0.00	100.00
Adnoca	100.00	0.00	100.00
Adnoca	100.00	0.00	100.00
Adnoca	100.00	0.00	100.00
Adnoca	100.00	0.00	100.00

Health Care	Price	Change	Volume
Adnoca	100.00	0.00	100.00
Adnoca	100.00	0.00	100.00
Adnoca	100.00	0.00	100.00
Adnoca	100.00	0.00	100.00
Adnoca	100.00	0.00	100.00

Insurance	Price	Change	Volume
Adnoca	100.00	0.00	100.00
Adnoca	100.00	0.00	100.00
Adnoca	100.00	0.00	100.00
Adnoca	100.00	0.00	100.00
Adnoca	100.00	0.00	100.00

International	Price	Change	Volume
Adnoca	100.00	0.00	100.00
Adnoca	100.00	0.00	100.00
Adnoca	100.00	0.00	100.00
Adnoca	100.00	0.00	100.00
Adnoca	100.00	0.00	100.00

Life Assurance	Price	Change	Volume
Adnoca	100.00	0.00	100.00
Adnoca	100.00	0.00	100.00
Adnoca	100.00	0.00	100.00
Adnoca	100.00	0.00	100.00
Adnoca	100.00	0.00	100.00

Media	Price	Change	Volume
Adnoca	100.00	0.00	100.00
Adnoca	100.00	0.00	100.00
Adnoca	100.00	0.00	100.00
Adnoca	100.00	0.00	100.00
Adnoca	100.00	0.00	100.00

Oil Exploration	Price	Change	Volume
Adnoca	100.00	0.00	100.00
Adnoca	100.00	0.00	100.00
Adnoca	100.00	0.00	100.00
Adnoca	100.00	0.00	100.00
Adnoca	100.00	0.00	100.00

Oil, Integrated	Price	Change	Volume
Adnoca	100.00	0.00	100.00
Adnoca	100.00	0.00	100.00
Adnoca	100.00	0.00	100.00
Adnoca	100.00	0.00	100.00
Adnoca	100.00	0.00	100.00

Share Price Data	Price	Change	Volume
Adnoca	100.00	0.00	100.00
Adnoca	100.00	0.00	100.00
Adnoca	100.00	0.00	100.00
Adnoca	100.00	0.00	100.00
Adnoca	100.00	0.00	100.00

The Independent Index	Price	Change	Volume
Adnoca	100.00	0.00	100.00
Adnoca	100.00	0.00	100.00
Adnoca	100.00	0.00	100.00
Adnoca	100.00	0.00	100.00
Adnoca	100.00	0.00	100.00

Interest Rates	Rate	Change
Adnoca	100.00	0.00
Adnoca	100.00	0.00
Adnoca	100.00	0.00
Adnoca	100.00	0.00
Adnoca	100.00	0.00

Telecommunications	Price	Change	Volume
Adnoca	100.00	0.00	100.00
Adnoca	100.00	0.00	100.00
Adnoca	100.00	0.00	100.00
Adnoca	100.00	0.00	100.00
Adnoca	100.00	0.00	100.00

Retailers, Food	Price	Change	Volume
Adnoca	100.00	0.00	100.00
Adnoca	100.00	0.00	100.00
Adnoca	100.00	0.00	100.00
Adnoca	100.00	0.00	100.00
Adnoca	100.00	0.00	100.00

Retailers, General	Price	Change	Volume
Adnoca	100.00	0.00	100.00
Adnoca	100.00	0.00	100.00
Adnoca	100.00	0.00	100.00
Adnoca	100.00	0.00	100.00
Adnoca	100.00	0.00	100.00

Festival fireworks: Grade vows to fight sell-off all the way as merchant banker warns that C4 is far from being a goldmine

Channel 4 sale 'would raise less than £1bn'

MATHEW HORSMAN
Media Editor

Channel 4 would be worth less than £1bn, half the much-publicised earlier estimates, if it were privatised, according to a senior City merchant banker.

Anthony Fry, of BZW, presented the much-reduced valuation to delegates at the Edinburgh International Television Festival yesterday, adding: "Clearly, privatising Channel 4 would not be the goldmine that everybody appears to think."

The prospect of privatisation has been recently hosted by the Treasury as a way of raising revenues to fund tax cuts, and could form part of the next Conservative Party manifesto.

But Mr Fry warned: "Any hope of generating a multi-billion pound return for the Government from Channel 4 would have to come from its programming budget as a privatised company."

The likelihood that a privately owned Channel 4 would have to

pay a cash bid, taxes and a percentage of its revenue to the Treasury further reduced its attractiveness at the inflated prices so far discussed in the City, he said.

Separately, Michael Grade, chief executive of Channel 4, made his most powerful public comment yet against privatisation, telling delegates in Edinburgh: "I'm angry and sad that the privatisation of Channel 4 is even on the political agenda somewhere between the Treasury and Downing Street. The board of Channel 4 is going to fight this all the way."

Mr Grade said Channel 4's special remit to cater to minority tastes could not survive privatisation. "You can certainly have a privatised Channel 4 or you can have Channel 4 with its full public service remit. You cannot have both."

"The remit works because it is shared between Parliament, the regulators and the board of the channel. The whole purpose of Channel 4 is to operate as efficiently as possible and to

deliver the maximum possible resources to that common objective."

Mr Grade concluded his speech by calling on the Government to "dispel this nonsense. Channel 4 works, so can it please be left alone to get on with its job?"

He even made veiled threats that he and other senior executives might not stay with the channel: "If I wanted to work in the commercial sector I would have stayed at ITV or in America. I will fight with every breath in my body against the privatisation of this channel."

That view was disputed by Cenzo Veljanovski, partner at Case Associates, the management consultancy, who argued that Channel 4 could be privatised with or without its distinctive remit.

He added that the justification for privatisation had been provided by the very success of the channel.

The spectacular rise of Channel 4 in recent years, and the high-profile campaign led by Mr



Veiled threats: Michael Grade says that he and other executives might not stay on

Photograph: Gerald Lewis

Grade to amend the controversial payments the channel makes to ITV, together convinced the Government to consider the sell-off.

Last year, Channel 4 paid £75m to ITV, under the funding formula. It dictates that the channel must pay the ITV companies a proportion of revenues once its share of

advertising reaches 14 per cent. Channel 4 now attracts more than 20 per cent.

Steve Morrison, chief operating officer of Granada Media Group, said that privatisation should be considered if Channel 4 did not change the way it currently scheduled programmes.

"Channel 4 ain't what it used

to be," he said. "It has quite simply become a commercial wolf in a public service sheep's clothing."

He criticised the number of repeats, the big proportion of programming imported from the US and what he saw as a lack of commitment to regional programming.

"Channel 4 has really just be-

come Channel Three-and-a-Half," Mr Morrison said. He called on regulators to impose stricter conditions on the channel. "The onus is on those who wish to avoid privatisation to convince us that the channel can be set back on its intended course," he said.

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ITC faces payments challenge

ITV companies are to lobby the Independent Television Commission for changes to the way the television regulators' budget is financed, calling the present system "increasingly unfair and difficult to justify", writes Mathew Horsman.

The ITC, which regulates commercial television in the UK, had a budget in 1995 of £15.3m, of which Channel 3, Channel 4 and Teletext companies contributed £11.3m.

By contrast, the cable and satellite companies, including BSkyB, Rupert Murdoch's satellite broadcaster, paid £2m. ITV is expected to argue that the distinction between revenue shares for different channels and their licence fee payments to the ITC is particularly striking.

ITV and Channel 4 account for 72 per cent of total television revenue, but pay 86 per cent of the ITC's budget.

Cable and satellite account for 28 per cent of commercial revenues but pay just 14 per cent of the ITC's running costs.

"Put another way, the cable and satellite channels earn almost a third of the revenue of Channels 3 and 4, yet we pay the ITC seven times as much," the ITV companies write in a draft letter.

Lenders use loan deals to inflate profits

NIC CICUTTI

Some of Britain's biggest mortgage lenders are boosting their financial returns by spreading out the cost of special incentives given to borrowers over several years.

By amortising mortgage discounts, cash-backs and other special deals paid to customers, building societies and some banks can announce profits that are tens of millions of pounds higher than their rivals. Among lenders which amortise are Nationwide, Woolwich and Northern Rock building societies, together with Abbey National, which added £60m to its half-year results by spreading the effect of its incentives.

Those who prefer to be more conservative and take the hit of special deals in the first year include Bradford & Bingley, Britannia, Yorkshire and Barclays Bank. Last week, Halifax Building Society said its half-year profits were £64m down on what they might have been had discounts been amortised.

The practice has drawn criticism from Geoffrey Fitchew, chairman of the Building Societies Commission, the industry's regulator. Speaking at the BSA conference in May, Mr Fitchew said: "The risk [is] that over time financial comparisons between different mortgage lenders will become opaque, where they follow different accounting conventions on material items in the financial statements."

The amortisation method in effect provides a more favourable impact on capital for what is economically the same transaction. We are considering whether this is creating an unfair disadvantage for lenders who take the hit up front."

However, lenders that amortise their deals claim the practice represents the effect of the

incentives as they actually happen each year.

Robert Jeans, the newly appointed group finance director at Woolwich Building Society, said that in the first half of this year, when it declared £183m in profits, some £45m of incentives paid to borrowers was amortised.

He said: "Our approach is to look at the whole locked-in returns over the several years in which we offer incentives. This was done by imposing redemption penalties, which forced clients to return the incentives they had received if they repaid a mortgage early."

Andy Kuipers, assistant general manager at Northern Rock, said the problems of borrowers defaulting and lenders losing out in the event of a house price collapse on a similar scale as the early 1990s were minimal.

Many of the big incentives, such as cash-back deals, were available only to borrowers able to advance deposits of between 5 and 10 per cent.

Mark Pain, group financial controller at Abbey National, added that another reason why not all lenders amortised was because they might not have in place the complicated systems needed to do so.

However, a spokeswoman for Britannia said: "We write off any of our special discounts in year one, irrespective of how long they run for, because we don't feel it is appropriate to spread costs. Lenders who do this are relying on people keeping their mortgages with them, which is not guaranteed."

Yorkshire Building Society said it too behaved "prudently" and did not amortise, preferring to take a hit immediately, even though it estimated the effect was to reduce by £13m the £40m profits it expects to make in 1996.



Platform for a float: David Price, chairman (left), and David Shipman, finance director

Lavendon founder could scoop £6m

The flotation of Lavendon, which provides powered access equipment for important sporting events such as Wimbledon, is set to bring a windfall of up to £6m for its founder, David Price, who invested £300,000 in buying the business in 1992, writes Magnus Grimond.

Now the UK's biggest powered access group, Lavendon announced yesterday its intention to come to the stock market in an autumn placing which

values the group at up to £30m. The company's self-propelled scissor and boom lifts and vehicle-mounted booms, which rise as high as 72 metres, have become familiar sights as television camera platforms at sporting occasions such as the Grand National and the British Grand Prix at Silverstone. Yesterday, the trucks were rolling out from some of Lavendon's 1,400 depots to cover the British Masters golf championship at

Collingtree, near Northampton. The placing will raise between £5m and £12m for the company to finance expansion and realise the holding of CIN-ven, the venture capital group that backed the original acquisition of the business.

It will also net a potential profit of more than £5m for Mr Price, a former systems analyst with IBM and divisional director with GKN, the engineering group.

New jet creates 400 jobs at Short's

JACQUI QUINN
Toronto

Up to 400 new jobs were secured at Short Brothers, the Belfast aero-engineering group, after around US\$1.8bn of advance orders were announced for the new Global Express executive jet. It was also revealed that up to 500 jobs could be created if the company wins work for a regional jet to be launched by Bombardier, Short's Canadian parent.

The news comes as a big shot in the arm for the Belfast-based group, which was forced to lay off 700 workers in the wake of the collapse of Fokker, the Dutch aircraft maker.

News of 52 firm orders for the

Global Express came as Bombardier rolled out the aircraft for the first time. The jet is the result of a C\$300m investment over the past three years and has been designed and built in partnership with Aerospace leaders from six countries. Costing US\$34m, it is claimed to be the most advanced business jet of its type and can carry eight executives halfway round the world non-stop at 935kph.

British industry has made an important contribution to the development of the Global Express and is set to benefit substantially from its success. The largest chunk of the British contribution is being made by Shorts, which is building around a quarter of the airframe struc-

ture for the aircraft. This involves the forward fuselage, horizontal stabiliser, engine nacelles, and a large percentage of the jet's composite components.

Global Express will create up to 400 jobs at the plant when the jet is in production in around 18 months, bringing the workforce on the programme to 700.

Roy McNulty, chairman of Short's, said the Global Express programme was extremely important. "It is not our largest aerospace project, but has the potential to become so. News that 52 orders have been received for the jet before anyone has even seen it is an indication of its long-term future."

Bombardier chairman and chief executive officer Laurent

Beaudoin also confirmed that Short's was likely to play a major part in its proposed new regional jet, the RJX-70. "We are in discussion with Short's about the possibility of manufacturing the fuselage, engine nacelles and composites. A decision will be taken before the end of the year."

If Short's is successful in securing the RJX-70 work, it would create up to 500 new jobs. Other British players in the Global Express programme are Lucas Industries, which will supply the electrical power generation and distribution system; Messier-Dowty, which developed and manufactured the landing gear; and a BMW-Rolls Royce alliance, which will supply the jet's BR 710 engines.

UK small businesses confident about future

MAGNUS GRIMOND

Further evidence that the economy is picking up came yesterday after it emerged that Britain's small businesses are some of the most confident in western Europe.

Optimism about the commercial environment has soared among British entrepreneurs in the first six months of this year, despite the increasingly cloudy outlook being faced by most of their colleagues on the Continent.

Although they expect the general economic situation to worsen, small and medium-sized enterprises in the UK are more positive in nearly every area which concerns their own activities.

There has been a surge in the numbers planning to increase investment in plant and machinery, and along with higher spending on marketing, research and development and training, more expect to raise additional finance in the next six months.

The findings by 3i, the venture capital firm, in its latest survey of 459 companies from five

west European countries, will be welcomed by the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, coming as they do after mixed signals from the rest of the economy, with retail sales unexpectedly weak in July and the CBI reporting some improved demand for manufactured goods from a low base.

However, 3i's European enterprise index also contains a warning to Mr Clarke in his battles with the Governor of the Bank of England, Eddie George, over interest rates.

An increasing number of British small businesses expect prices and wages to rise, giving some support to the recent concerns voiced by Mr George about the possible need to raise interest rates for the Government to hit its inflation targets.

The UK survey results contrast sharply with most of those from the four other countries covered, with the French the most gloomy. Small businesses in France have replaced their German counterparts as the most pessimistic about the state of the economy, 3i says.

The economic index has slumped there by 9 points to

-64, which compares with a 7-point improvement to -17 in the UK. French confidence about the prospects for businesses is the lowest of any of the five countries, slipping from 10 to just 4 on the index, whereas in the UK there was a rise of 14 points to 22.

There are growing fears of competition among French businesses and, more than in any of the other countries, an expectation that prices will fall.

Meanwhile, German entrepreneurs, despite being less negative on the prospects for the economy, are gloomier about the state of their own businesses. Optimism about their prospects has fallen from a rating of 17 to 7 and although 46 per cent of small and medium-sized businesses expect to raise more finance, up from 19 per cent before, concerns over competition have increased sharply.

Charles Richardson of 3i said the UK picture was looking quite positive: "There is something of a more confident mood in many businesses. I don't think we're back to boom, boom times, but they are investing more."

IN BRIEF

• Compass Group, the food group, is to acquire the dining and food-vending operations of Service America for £77m. Service America has 7,000 vending accounts and employs 13,000 staff. The deal involves a £5.3m cash payment and £12.9m in loan notes, with the remainder funded by the issue of new Compass shares.

• Airtech, the mobile communications company, is to seek a listing on the Alternative Investment Market, with a market capitalisation of £25m. The company, which has an order book of £9m, is being advised by Albert E Sharp, a nominated broker.

• British companies are less innovative than their Irish and German counterparts because they lack specialist staff, according to a survey. Only 61 per cent of UK firms set up between 1991 and 1993 created new products or developed old ones. In Ireland the total reached 68 per cent, while in Germany it was 71.4 per cent. The survey of 1,700 British, 500 Irish and 1,300 German firms was carried out by the Northern Ireland Research Centre, the Fraser of Allander Institute and the German IFO-Institute.

• Coca-Cola, the drinks company, said it would increase investment in Russia by \$100m (£65m) to \$600m by the end of 1997. The company said that, according to independent research, it had captured 18 per cent of the soft drinks market.

• Gencor, the mining group, said yesterday that the planned merger between its Impala Platinum Holdings and the platinum interests of Lonrho was no longer in prospect. Brian Gilbertson, executive chairman at Gencor, said his company would continue to run Impala as before.

• Jorys Hotel Group, the Irish hotel chain, said that trading levels for the first two months of the current tax year were well ahead of last year. Jorys's chairman, Walter Beatty, told shareholders yesterday: "Almost four months into the year, the strong pattern of trading has been sustained."

• Lufthansa, the German airline, said it expected to be able to match 1995 earnings in the 1996 business year despite a DM70m (£28m) fall in first-half pre-tax profit to DM119m. The company also forecast stronger 1996 sales, predicting a 5 per cent rise. Its first-half sales rose by 6.6 per cent to DM9.8bn.

• Foster's Brewing Group, the Australian brewer, forecast continued solid earnings growth after announcing a 2 per cent rise in net profit to A\$293.3m (£150m) for the year to 30 June.

• Swiss Re, the reinsurance group, said it would comment in the next few days on rumours that it is set to buy Mercantile & General, the reinsurance business owned by Prudential Corporation, for £1.5bn. The Pru said in June that it was seeking a partial flotation for M&G.

STOCK MARKETS									
FT-SE 100									
	Close	Week's chg	Change%	1996 High	1996 Low	Yield%			
FTSE 100	3807.50	+34.6	+0.9	3907.50	3632.30	4.00			
FTSE 250	4424.80	+58.4	+1.3	4568.60	4015.30	3.41			
FTSE 350	1954.90	+19.2	+1.0	1964.90	1816.60	3.88			
FT Small Cap	2157.16	+21.0	+1.0	2244.36	1954.06	3.08			
FT All Share	1930.75	+18.9	+1.0	1930.75	1791.95	3.82			
New York *	5682.04	-	-	5778.00	5032.94	2.18			
Tokyo	20803.74	-	-	22666.80	19734.70	0.741			
Hong Kong	MM closed	-	-	11594.99	10204.87	3.351			
Frankfurt	2582.36	-	-	2583.49	2253.36	1.801			

Source: FT Information

INTEREST RATES									
UK interest rates									
	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	1 Year	2 Year	3 Year	5 Year	10 Year	15 Year
UK	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
US	5.51	5.78	6.09	6.37	6.82	6.72			
Japan	0.44	0.64	3.12	3.17	7.02				
Germany	3.06	3.25	6.36	6.59	7.10				
Bond Yields *									
	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	1 Year	2 Year	3 Year	5 Year	10 Year	15 Year
UK	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
US	5.51	5.78	6.09	6.37	6.82	6.72			
Japan	0.44	0.64	3.12	3.17	7.02				
Germany	3.06	3.25	6.36	6.59	7.10				
MAIN PRICE CHANGES									
Shares - Top 5	Price	Chg	% Chg	Price	Chg	% Chg	Price	Chg	% Chg
Barclays Group	134	12	8.8	RAY Industries	426	39	8.4		
Bombardier	448	36	8.7	Digital Bus Sys	450	35	7.2		
British Sky Brcdcast	578	45	8.4	Belford	184	11	6.3		

CURRENCIES									
Y/\$									
	Close	Week's chg	Tr 1 Mo	Close	Week's chg	Tr 1 Mo	Close	Week's chg	Tr 1 Mo
\$ (London)	1.5542	+0.0006	1.5450	£ (London)	0.6534	-0.0026	0.6476		
\$ (NY)	1.5573	-	1.5500	£ (NY)	0.6421	-	0.6452		
DM (London)	2.3117	-0.0016	2.2830	DM (London)	1.4874	-0.0161	1.4786		
¥ (London)	186.800	+1.564	148.220	¥ (London)	108.480	+10.590	96.640		
£ Index	85.0	unch	84.5	£ Index	95.3	unch	94.2		
OTHER INDICATORS									
	Close	Week's chg	Year Ago		Close	Week's chg	Year Ago		
Oil Brent \$	20.41	-	18.25	RPI	152.4	+2.2p	149.8	12.5p	
Gold \$	387.65	-1.45	382.80	GDP	107.9	+0.4p	125.9	24.8p	
Gold £	245.42	+0.01	247.77	Bank Rates	-	5.75p	5.75	-	

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PAUL ORMEROD

'Britain's experience since 1979 has hardly been impressive, yet in real terms per capita national income has risen at the same rate as western Germany's, and faster than France's'

Don't follow the European model: it's collapsing

The economies of Continental Europe face a serious structural crisis. Unemployment is at historically high levels, and rises almost inexorably. The western German unemployment rate is already above the British rate of about 8 per cent. In France and Italy it is over 12 per cent, in Finland 18 per cent and in Spain 22 per cent. The British government is often accused, with good reason, of massaging the figures, but governments everywhere find the temptation irresistible. In Germany, for example, almost 2 million people are kept off the dole by "work" schemes. In France, the nationalised industries such as SNCF and Air France are in effect bankrupt, and employment levels are preserved only by massive subsidies.

Growth rates everywhere in Europe are faltering. Britain's experience since 1979 has hardly been impressive, yet in real terms per capita national income has risen at the same rate as western Germany's, and faster than France's. This represents a dramatic break in the trend that had been in place for over a century. From the 1870s to 1979, the big European economies grew more rapidly than the UK, but since 1979 this has ceased to be the case. Comparisons of growth rates over short periods of time can easily be manipulated by taking economies at different stages of the short-term business cycle, but the 17 years since 1979 span at least two full cycles and so form a reliable basis on which to compare performance.

This is not necessarily to hold up Britain

as a model for the rest of the European Union. Many problems remain, not least of which is the dramatic widening of inequality that has taken place. But it makes much less sense to argue that Britain should now emulate the European – or "Rhenish" – model of capitalism, for it is precisely this latter model whose performance is collapsing. At the heart of the European problem is a crisis in profitability. Compared with a decade ago there has in recent years been some recovery of profitability in Europe, but one which is far from sufficient to underpin a sustainable growth rate of more than 2 per cent a year.

The origins of the crisis go back some 30 years. The late 1960s and early 1970s saw a sharp rise in the share of national income going to the labour force, and a corresponding erosion of profitability. The rise was made up of a combination of rapid increases in real wages in excess of productivity growth, and of rises in the costs of employing labour. Europe's problems were compounded by the global shocks of the mid-1970s, but the fall in profitability, the necessary condition for a deterioration in the sustainable growth rate, was already in place.

Orthodox economic theory insists that this should have carried no consequences for

the growth rate. In both its standard neo-classical and notorious "post neo-classical endogenous" variants, conventional theory assumes that savings are translated into investment in an effortless way, regardless of the level of profitability. Quite remarkably, profits are virtually written out of the script. But I prefer Hamlet, with the Prince as part of the cast: profitability has always been the key driving force of capitalism, as the great early economists such as Smith, Ricardo and Marx recognised.

Comparing average growth rates of the past 20 years or so with those of the 1950s and 1960s, some deterioration is entirely to be expected. In the aftermath of the war, the capital stocks of the European economies were ravaged, but the skills of the labour force remained intact. The process of rebuilding

the capital stock, taking the opportunity to copy the technology of the world leader, the United States, enabled very rapid growth rates, of 5 per cent a year and more, to be achieved. But this catch-up process was bound to come to an end at some point.

Over and above this entirely natural slowing of the medium-term growth rate has been the impact of the erosion of profitability. The chart plots the changes in the averages of annual GDP growth rates and the share of labour in national income in the largest 18 OECD economies between the 1960-73 period, and the period since 1973. So, for example, the observation for Japan at the bottom right-hand corner shows that comparing the 1974-95 averages with those of 1960-73, GDP growth in Japan has been over 5 percentage points lower, and the share of labour in national income almost 12 percentage points higher. Each of these periods is sufficiently long to embrace several short-term economic cycles, so the comparisons are not distorted by choice of year.

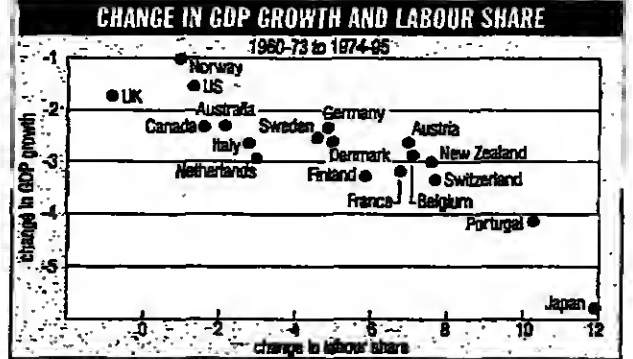
The striking feature of the chart is the clear negative relationship between these two factors. The larger the increase in labour's share of national income (and, as a corollary, the greater the fall in the share of profits), the more marked has been the fall in the growth rate. It is a straightforward matter to apply sophisticated statistical methods to confirm the validity of this relationship. At the top left-hand corner of the chart are the three economies where the erosion of the profit share has been the least, and where in consequence the fall in the growth rate has been the smallest. The Norwegian experience is obviously due to North Sea oil, which represents a substantial proportion of the overall economy in Norway. In the two Anglo-Saxon economies, the profit share has been protected primarily through policies to promote "flexible" labour markets, which have helped to maintain the growth rate, albeit at the expense of a widening of the distribution of income.

Over the last 20 years annual average growth in the continental EU countries has been 1 percentage point lower than it would otherwise have been because of the lack of profitability.

It is here that the real cost of high payroll taxes is seen. The well-being of all Europeans is worsened by the resulting reduction in the sustainable growth rate. And in many, but not all, countries, lower growth has been the prime reason for the endemic rise in unemployment.

Amazingly, most liberal commentators continue to eulogise the European model and urge its adoption in Britain. But they are living in the past. The crisis in profitability will continue to deliver low growth and high unemployment in the Continental economies.

Paul Ormerod is chairman of Post-Orthodox Economics, an economic consultancy. He was previously a forecaster at the Henley Centre.



The head of a new fund launched by John Govett tells Tom Stevenson why he has turned bullish on eastern Europe's prospects

Putting his trust in the profitability of heading east

It would be hard to imagine anyone better placed to set up an eastern European investment fund than Peter Kysel. On holiday in Wales in 1968 he turned on the radio to hear that his native Czechoslovakia had been overrun by Soviet troops.

As he was listening to the reports, underfed Russian soldiers were emptying the cupboard at his grandfather's holiday home outside Prague. It seemed a good opportunity to complete his education with an engineering and economics degree from Oxford.

After spells at Charter Consolidated, Touche Remnant and Lloyds Merchant Bank, he watched from a distance the collapse of communism in Europe and the velvet revolution at home, before heading back east in 1992 to advise the Slovak Minister of Finance on how to regulate the country's new capital markets.

The following year he moved to Komerční Banka, the largest bank in the Czech Republic, as managing director of its investment banking division. If anyone has a feel for the fast-emerging capitalist economies of the former eastern bloc it should be Mr Kysel.

His enthusiasm for the investment opportunities in eastern Europe now has an outlet in the New Europe Investment Company, a fund he is launching for John Govett, the 80 per cent-owned associate of Allied Irish Banks. Investors who have turned their fingers in a string of hyped markets around the world in recent years will take some persuading of the invest-

THE TUESDAY INTERVIEW PETER KYSEL

ment case. But Mr Kysel thinks the argument is compelling. "Before deciding to launch the fund we had to be convinced of the answers to four questions. Was the macro-economic environment favourable? Was there anything actually to invest in? Did we have the skills to take advantage of the opportunities? And did we have the right investment policy to maximise our success?" Mr Kysel said.

As far as the economic background is concerned, he sees all the countries in the former Soviet orbit as having been through a three-stage transition. First, they had to destroy the structures in place during the centrally planned communist years. That occupied the years 1990-1993, during which GDP typically fell by 15-20 per cent a year, inflation soared and production collapsed.

That traumatic period was followed by about two years of stabilisation in 1994 and 1995. Only since the beginning of this year have the countries entered into the final phase of accelerating and sustainable economic growth. Mr Kysel expects growth rates in many regions to be about twice those of the developed world over the next decade or so, perhaps 5 or 6 per cent a year. Inflation is under control and budget deficits better than in many western European countries.

"The dynamic growth of countries and companies in



Compelling argument: Peter Kysel predicts that growth in the east will far outstrip that of western Europe

central and eastern Europe is often mistakenly compared with the emergence of Third World economies," he said. "Experience shows the conditions and the speed of transformation are more similar to the reconstruction of the German economy after the last war."

Why have they been so successful? "The most radical reformers have been the most successful in achieving transformation into functioning capitalist economies. Market reforms in the region have been reinforced by significantly undervalued currencies, by work forces with first world education and skills who are paid Third World wages, by rapid productivity improvements and by their close proximity to the major consumer markets."

The next prerequisite, a sensible universe of companies in which to invest, has been given an enormous boost by mass privatisation programmes that have created 125,000 new privately owned companies. With many shares in the hands of private individuals, they are likely to be liquid, tradeable investments. Certainly, there are more than enough available shares to create a sensible portfolio of say 50 shares.

Mr Kysel is too modest to say as much but he is also plainly confident in his ability to run the fund. During his most recent spell in Prague, he was responsible for listing the first company on the stock exchange, he organised the first rights issue, the first bond issue and the first pro-

ject financing. He was on the ground during the years in the early 1990s when "there was no point in throwing money at those markets and losing it" and believes he has called the moment to turn bullish.

The key to profiting from eastern European markets, Mr Kysel believes, is to understand their structure and allocate assets appropriately. More than two-thirds of their capitalisation lies in slow-growth energy, utility and financial groups, which offer at best limited participation in the rapid growth of the

region. The best opportunities for growth lie in medium-sized companies serving export markets or the fast-developing consumer markets at home and it is these companies Govett's new fund will target. There are also good opportunities in capital goods manufacturers and service companies. Spotting those requires an experienced presence on the ground, rather than the trainee fund managers usually sent to cut their teeth on emerging markets.

Even Mr Kysel's enthusiasm, however, does not shut his eyes

to the risks: "A big difficulty is how the rules are applied and enforced. In the Czech Republic they will be applied bureaucratically, but in Russia... they are, well, more laissez faire about these things."

He also notes the political risks of a country like Russia where there are 140 nationalities often at each others' throats, limited liquidity in some smaller capitalisation stocks and an unavoidable currency risk. But he remains incurably optimistic about the region and the potential of its companies.

South-east Asia ready for battle with speculators

VIEW FROM HONG KONG

The long shadow of last year's Mexican peso crisis hovers ominously around the fast-growing economies of South-east Asia, whose governments fear they too might be subject to the kind of attack mounted on the peso by hedge fund and asset allocation fund managers.

Thailand, which suffered a minor assault during the peso crisis, seems most vulnerable to attack by speculators. This view is shared by foreign exchange dealers and the Thai government's top policy makers, who have made it clear that they do not intend to be a sitting duck.

Thailand's central bank governor, Rerngchai Marakantorn, recently told regional currency dealers that his bank would not hesitate to enter both spot and forward currency swap markets to defend the local currency. "While we don't want to be tested, we are prepared and equipped to do whatever is necessary to preserve the value of our currency. An attack on the [Thai] baht will be considered as a direct attack on the Bank of Thailand and it will be dealt with accordingly."

This is more than just bluster. At the beginning of the month, foreign exchange dealers in Asia were swamped with rumours about a possible devaluation of the baht. This,

combined with worries about the coalition government which runs Thailand, produced intense pressure on the currency.

Alarmed by the level of speculation, the Bank of Thailand went into both the Hong Kong and Singapore markets and spent an estimated US\$1.8bn to shore up the baht.

Behind Thailand's determination to protect its currency against speculation stands a growing sense of solidarity among the region's central bankers, crystallised in November by a meeting in Hong Kong where they pledged support through repurchase or "repo" agreements to provide the liquidity required for banks to fight off attacks by speculators.

Hong Kong, for example, has six repo agreements, including one with Thailand. Singapore also has an arrangement with Thailand but kept away from the Hong Kong meeting. This may be because it feels strong enough to act alone. It houses the world's fourth-largest forex market and its currency is among the four most widely traded Asian currencies, alongside the Thai baht, the Indonesian rupiah and the Malaysian ringgit.

Most Asian currencies are largely tied to the United States dollar. In addition, the Asian

countries have an impressive pool of foreign currency reserves, estimated to have reached US\$420bn as of September 1995. The considerable liquidity of the currencies belonging to the export-led states of South-east Asia and their link to the US dollar make them an obvious target for speculators.

Thailand is vulnerable, despite its foreign exchange reserves of some US\$40bn. Short-term foreign debt, mostly

in the private sector, exceeds this amount and has been growing rapidly. In addition the current account balance remains in the red. These factors led the US credit rating agency Moody's to warn, in May, that Thailand was vulnerable to "financial shock" and state that it was contemplating downgrading its prime-1 rating for sovereign short-term debt.

The Moody's report sent shockwaves throughout the

Thai financial community and drew an angry response in some quarters. However the people taking most careful note were the currency speculators.

A senior central bank official, Thirachai Phuvanatmanabala, told the dealers' meeting that foreign speculative trading on the baht in South-east Asia amounted to about US\$1.2-1.5bn a day. However the Thai authorities are more wary of the massive US hedge funds which often move in herd-like fashion and have shown an active interest in the Thai baht.

A central bank official said the authorities had a good idea who the speculators were but preferred to deal with the problem by creating an unfavourable environment for attacks on the currency.

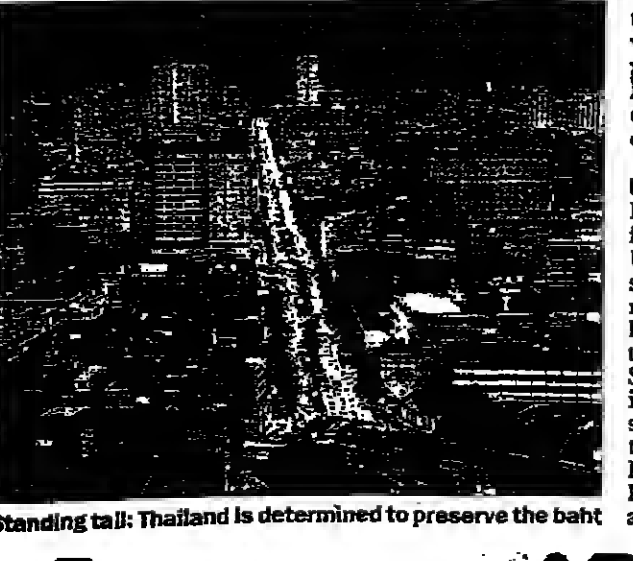
However, even more firmly based currencies, such as the Hong Kong dollar, backed by a foreign exchange battle chest of US\$60bn, are vulnerable to speculators. Earlier in the month, *Sunday Business* published an erroneous report that the currency speculator George Soros had taken short positions in the local currency. As a result the Hong Kong dollar, tied to the US dollar at a rate of HK\$7.75 to US\$1, fell as low as HK\$7.74. Every movement of a fraction of a percentage point

spells the shift of millions of dollars and does so on the basis of unsubstantiated rumour.

Earlier this year, Hong Kong's financial secretary, Donald Tsang, warned speculators against attacking the Hong Kong dollar, pointing to the heavy losses incurred by speculators when the currency came under attack early last year.

Some of the big shifts in Asian currency values can be explained by something other than pure speculation. Nevertheless, the movements can be dramatic. In the past five years the Singapore dollar has appreciated by about 25 per cent while the Indonesian rupiah depreciated by about the same amount.

The focus on Asian currencies is likely to become more widespread as restrictions on the convertibility of some controlled currencies are relaxed. Taiwan and South Korea are moving towards a more liberal regime and China is making pledges to make the renminbi convertible. Even Vietnam, which lags well behind in the convertibility stakes, is saying that controls will be further relaxed. If nothing else, these moves will give currency speculators more choice.



Standing tall: Thailand is determined to preserve the baht

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sport

Sunday could have turned out a lot worse than it did

What a result! No one at Rothmans-Williams-Renault had expected Ferrari to be such a threat in the Belgian Grand Prix. Michael Schumacher's win was, perhaps, an example of how Jacques Villeneuve and I had been so intensely focused on competing against ourselves for the drivers' championships that maybe we took our eyes off the competition.

The crucial aspect from my point of view is that I came away from Spa-Francorchamps with a couple of points and Jacques managed to score just four more than me. That was a better result than it might have been. At one stage during Sunday's race I expected Jacques to win. I was quite surprised when they told me on the radio that he had actually finished second.

From where I was, some way down the order, it had been impossible to see exactly what was going on. I had been told that Jacques was running behind Schumacher and I assumed

Jacques was bound to overtake the Ferrari eventually and win the race. From my position - ninth place at the time - everything was looking dire, particularly as I was struggling a bit with the spare car.

I made the switch not long before the start because of concern about an incident which had taken place during the warm-up earlier in the day. I had spun off the track and about half an hour before the race was due to start it suddenly occurred to me that the car had been in gear with the engine running when I had spun backwards. We looked at the incident on the video and the slow-motion replay showed the rear wheels make three revolutions in reverse while the car was in second gear. In effect, the wheels were taking the engine the wrong way.

I discussed the possible consequences of the spin with my Renault engineer, Denis Chevrier. It was clear from him that reversing the engine

was not something which Renault had much experience of, and why should they - they are designed with only forward rotation in mind. So I decided to take the spare car. More than anything else I had to be sure of finishing, particularly as Jacques would have the advantage of starting the 13th round of the championship from pole position.

I made a better start than I expected, considering there was water on my side of the track, but I was very surprised when David Coulthard's McLaren shot past me on the long climb up the hill. That put me back to fourth place. Although the handling of the spare car was quite good I found I had too much understeer, particularly when running in close company. I was preparing to have small changes made to the car during my first pit stop when I came across an accident which, indirectly, would change the course of the race for the Williams team.

Jos Verstappen had gone off the road in a big way. I came round the corner to find tyres from the protective wall bouncing and rolling across the track. There were bits of debris everywhere and I had no alternative but to brake hard to avoid the tyres that were rolling across the track. But in order to miss the tyres I had to run over a large piece of suspension that was lying on the track. Thankfully, it didn't do any damage to me or the car. It was no surprise to see the appearance of the safety car, behind which we would have to run while all the wreckage was cleared.

This coincided at almost exactly the same time the pit stops were due and I received a message to come in from Adrian Newey. As I headed towards the pit lane, the entrance of which bypasses the chicane, and just before I actually got to the point where the pit-lane barrier starts, I was suddenly told to stay out.

This meant I couldn't rejoin the track directly and I had to work my way through a little chicane and then be held by a marshal until the track was clear. That cost me two places as Mika Hakkinen and Gerhard Berger went through. By the time I finally made my pit stop and rejoined

I was in 13th place, at the back of the queue trailing along behind the safety car. I looked in my mirror and could see just one car behind me so, as far as I was concerned, I was as good as last.

The confusion had been caused when Jacques, who was due to come in before me, failed to hear the message due to communication problems and didn't stop. I had been told to come in also, but the pit was of course then set up for delivery of Jacques' fuel and tyres.

In hindsight, I could have come in but would have had to wait while they changed over all the equipment and tyres. This would have made it a long stop, but not nearly as much of a loss of time as I eventually suffered by being the last person to stop.

The team is under extreme pressure at times to make split-second decisions that can dramatically alter the race. This was one of those

moments. It's like tossing a coin. Sometimes the wrong side turns up. Spa-Francorchamps just didn't go my way, and that's all there is to it.

I made up some places during the final phase and the car felt much better. Berger was pushing me hard in the closing stages so, all in all, I was very fortunate to get those two points at the end of such an eventful day. With three races left to run Jacques has reduced my championship lead by four points to 13.

The outcome of Sunday's race in terms of points was the same as the pair of us finishing first and second. On reflection, had Jacques made his first pit stop on schedule, he probably would have won the race and I would have finished third. That would have meant that he would have gained six points on me rather than four. Quite honestly, Sunday could have turned out a lot worse than it did.

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Frank Biela won the Auto Trader RAC Touring Car Championship drivers' title after two thrilling races yesterday watched by the Bank Holiday crowd at Thruxton. The Audi driver, who has led the series since the start, finished second and third yesterday to put his points tally beyond the reach of his rivals.

With the German Touring Car Championship and FIA World Cup titles already on his CV, the German driver was delighted by his win: "It's been a long, hard and difficult year," he said. "I hope to be back to defend my title next year. Now the pressure is gone and I can concentrate on winning some more races before the end of the year."

Biela nearly added an eighth race victory to his tally in round 21 at Thruxton; he chased David Leslie's Honda to the chequered flag, mounting several overtaking challenges along the way. Leslie beat Biela by 0.17sec.

The pattern of the race was decided at the first corner, where BMW's Jo Winkelhock attempted to force his way past Alan Menu and Will Hoy, who had been on the front of the grid in Renaults. Winkelhock and Menu made contact, Menu spun across the track and hit his team-mate and triggered an accident which accounted for both Renaults, Winkelhock, Kevin Burt's Volvo, the Ford of Paul Radisich and James Thompson's Vauxhall. No one was hurt.

Several drivers were slowed by the incident but Leslie managed to pick his way through the debris to take the lead, pursued by Biela, Roberto Ravaglia (BMW), Rickard Rydell (Volvo) and Peter Kox, who was making his BTCC debut for BMW.

The Total Cup for privateers was won by Toyota's Lee Brookes, whose only real rival was Matt Neal in a Ford after Richard Kaye's Vauxhall failed to start.

Excitement boils over at Ferrari

DERICK ALLSOP

reports from Spa-Francorchamps

Michael Schumacher was in full flow to the huddle of journalists and took no heed of the mobile phone ringing in the pocket of an Italian reporter.

"Pronto... sì."

"It's for you," the reporter said, pressing the phone into Schumacher's hand. "It's the president."

"Hello... thanks... my pleasure."

"He's unbelievable," Schumacher said, handing back the phone. "You don't see the president of another company being so interested in Formula One."

But then it is difficult to imagine another president like Luca di Montezemolo and another company like Ferrari. This has been a generally frustrating and embarrassing season for their Formula One team and the merciless Italian media have intensified their discomfiture.

Schumacher's masterful victory in Sunday's Belgian Grand Prix changed the mood at a stroke, and for the PR-conscious Di Montezemolo it was an opportunity too good to miss.

The mood is likely to be turned into rampant euphoria by Di Montezemolo's compatriots over the next two weeks, reaching a frenzied climax of anticipation at the Italian Grand Prix. Schumacher realised that, and the concern became evident in his countenance.

"I am quite worried about Monza," he said. "Especially after winning this race. Expectations will be high. I feel a little uneasy. I'm not sure we'll be able to do the same job as here. I'm afraid we will be as competitive. The people then become hysterical if things go

wrong. Please keep it calm," he exhorted the Italian journalists.

He should know they cannot. His first season with the Italian team - for that read Team Italia - ought to have given him a clear enough picture of the Ferrari phenomenon. And Monza will be bedlam.

"It is always like this in life," he said philosophically. "There are good things and not so good things. I feel that people are giving me respect but they are so emotional. They lost control. They like to kiss you and take you."

He was referring to an incident at a recent test, when an admirer had an apparently irresistible compulsion to lunge at Schumacher as he posed for photographers, and planted a kiss on him.

"He could at least have shaved," the champion joked. "And, anyway, it wouldn't have been so bad if it had been a girl."

But have not the Germans also gone wild for Schumacher? At this race they had turned up in their scores of thousands, as they had elsewhere throughout Europe, spreading the campsites as never before. We had known Mansell mania, we had seen Senna's fan club all around the world, yet nothing like this. It makes the Germany of the 1930s eerily easy to comprehend.

"Yes," he conceded, "also Germans, but not in the same way. I am not so sure of Italians."

Schumacher has never overtly courted the public. He enjoys the support, and patiently revels in it. Hero worship, however, he finds difficult to cope with. He recalls when people touch and grab him. He craves just to be one of the people, yet he knows it is no longer possible.



Great expectations: Schumacher salutes the most demanding fans in motor racing after his triumph in Belgium

Photograph: Jerome Delay/AP

ble. That is why his traditional "inspiration" walk into the woods here to meet his fans has become a stage-managed production.

For all his reservations about life with Ferrari, Schumacher is already well down the road to negotiating an extension of his contract to the end of 1998. He insists money is not the issue. It is thought he is seeking another \$10m (£6.5m) a year on top of his current \$25m, but then

money does not appear to be an issue with Ferrari either. He maintains he is more concerned with "other details".

Those may well include the identity of his team-mate. He is content to keep Eddie Irvine alongside him, arguing the benefits of continuity and understanding. Besides, he said, he had always been quicker than his team-mates. "I could try to slow down," he added.

There is, however, a lobby in

Italian circles for a stronger second driver who might enable them to aspire to the constructors' championship as well as the driver's title in future seasons. No less a source than Gianni Agnelli, patriarch of the Fiat empire, has fuelled suggestions that Irvine could yet be dropped for next season by remarking on the talent of Mika Hakkinen, whose contract with McLaren-Mercedes expires at the end of the year. As an experienced observer of Ferrari affairs pointed out, Agnelli is not noted for making gratuitous statements.

Despite the seemingly endless test sessions Ferrari have had at Monza - they were at work again there yesterday - Schumacher implies Williams-Renault should be better equipped for the Italian Grand Prix. Over, then, to Damon Hill and Jacques Villeneuve to resume their championship

tussle. But you cannot help feel Schumacher will still interfere with Williams's strategy before the title is decided.

Given the cost of keeping Schumacher, it is perhaps convenient for Ferrari that Marlboro, one of their sponsors, are ending their 23-year association with McLaren after this season. The Woking-based team yesterday announced a five-year deal involving another tobacco brand, West.

RFU considers rival tournament

The end is nigh. If the Five Nations television sub-committee have their way, England very shortly could be thrown out of the Five Nations Championship.

The sub-committee, minus English representatives, meets in London tonight and is expected to put forward a recommendation to the full committee ending England's participation in the tournament. But that could kickstart an alternative tournament involving top players in clubs from those very countries lined up against the Rugby Football Union.

The RFU, who are still discussing how best to secure England's future in the Five Nations proper, have the backing of English Professional Rugby Union Clubs (Epruc). With

rumours that there is a widening rift between the Welsh Rugby Union and its clubs after a weekend meeting, the pointers are that an alternative tournament could become a reality. It was something Epruc hinted at earlier this year when a split between themselves and the RFU was threatened.

If the Welsh clubs were to break away from the WRU there is every chance they would be welcomed into the RFU fold. A precedent already exists for Welsh clubs to hold membership of the RFU. While Monmouthshire was still regarded as being in England, Newport were RFU members.

It was only when the county was ceded to Wales and became Gwent that they switched, but not completely, to the WRU. Newport are still listed as an

David Llewellyn reports on plans for an alternative to the Five Nations

sociate member in the latest RFU Handbook.

An RFU committee member said last night he felt sure that Twickenham would seriously consider the possibility of granting membership to the Welsh clubs in the event of a break-away from Cardiff, with a view to staging an alternative home international championship.

It is not inconceivable that some England-based Scottish players would be able to form a representative XV to participate in a joint Epruc-RFU international tournament. Since some 13 of Ireland's first-choice XV and a large number of

squad members from last season are already contracted to English clubs for the new season and the near future, it is unlikely those clubs would be willing to release them for the proposed Four Nations tournament involving Wales, France, Scotland and Ireland. The pieces are in place for an alternative home international tournament to become a reality.

There would even be money for such a venture, since BSkyB could no doubt be persuaded to offer the deals they had originally put to the other Home Unions to the respective clubs' organisations of each country. The Welsh and Scots followed England's example and turned themselves into limited companies for the purpose of managing their fiscal affairs.

It would certainly be attractive, since the bulk of the British

Isles' leading players would be involved - including every first-choice Englishman. The French clubs had indicated their interest in such a scheme to club representatives some months ago, and yesterday Kim Deshayes, the chief executive of Epruc, which meets today to discuss this latest turn of events, said: "It is fair to say we have to explore all options. Obviously we are providing the players and we want to be in control of our own destiny."

The announcement by the WRU chairman, Vernon Pugh, that there would be no inaugural Anglo-Welsh club tournament prompted Deshayes to say: "We feel that the Anglo-Welsh event is a very important and valid competition, and it is certainly one that we would like to preserve. We shall be showing complete solidarity with the Welsh clubs on that."

After Cistacq had scored, Abdelatif Beozazi, Agen's captain, left in another bewildering bout of substitutions. Beozazi clearly sensed that his job was done, and with Agen leading 25-15 Leicester had no chance of breaking them down.

It will have a direct and beneficial impact on skills and fitness levels," Crichton said.

The SRU said they will announce the names of players who accept contracts, but they will not disclose details of individual deals.

SRU offers 56 full-time contracts

The Scottish Rugby Union has offered full-time contracts to 56 players as part of its plan to introduce professional rugby into Scotland.

Players who accept full-time employment will receive a basic salary of between £20,000 and £50,000 per annum. There will be additional match fees and a win bonus scheme covering the major club competitions and international matches.

Most contracts are for three years, although a small number are for one year, recognising the importance of continuity and building a strong squad for the 1999 Rugby World Cup.

The contracts have been overseen by Ken Crichton, the SRU's staffing convener. He described the payments as "realistic and fair, in accordance with the principle of trying to keep our best players in Scotland."

The SRU has recognised that some players will not wish to accept full-time contracts, and will offer part-time contracts, with match fees and win bonuses, to those players.

"This is a most exciting time in Scottish rugby, with our top players now being asked to test their sport as their full-time profession - with all the added commitment that will involve."

Holmes' third gold caps British success

Paralympic Games

Britain gained their 39th and final gold medal of the 10-day competition at the 10th Paralympic Games in Atlanta when the swimmer Christopher Holmes won the men's 50 metres freestyle.

It was an impressive haul but not one to breed complacency in the team, whose chief de mission, Tracy Sainsbury, said: "We can do even better next time."

For Holmes, it was a third gold in his third Paralympics. His medal helped Britain to pip Spain for fourth place overall. The United States topped the table with 46 gold medals, 46 silver and 65 bronze. Australia were second with 42 golds and Germany third on 40.

Sainsbury was delighted with the team's performance. "I said after Barcelona [in 1992] we would need to have a wider spread of medals if we were to maintain and develop our position as one of the top nations in the world. I think we have done that and I don't think we've reached our full potential even yet, which probably has something to do with the age of some of the members of the team."

"We've been around quite a long time and this is the best team I've ever worked with. I can only see a great future for the British Paralympic movement if the promises being made by all sorts of agencies are fulfilled over the next four years."

Athletics and swimming emerged as Britain's strongest sports. There were 42 medals in athletics, including 12 golds, seven of which came with world records.

Steve Payton, who has cerebral palsy, showed all his sprinting prowess with golds at 100m, 200m and 400m in the men's T37 class, while the partially-sighted middle-distance runner Noel Thatcher showed the benefit of spending the past 12 months receiving guidance from Japan's top coaches with superb wins at 10,000m and 5,000m. In winning the former, he lowered the world record by 50 seconds despite a stress fracture in his left shin.

The injury did rule Thatcher out of the marathon, in which the partially-sighted runners Steve Brunt and Mark Farnell finished with silvers apiece in the B2 and B3 categories.

At the aquatic centre there was a haul of 48 medals, including 16 golds - seven of them with world records. Apart from three golds for the partially-sighted Holmes, another three went to Stockport's Sarah Bailey, in the women's 100m backstroke S10, 100m breaststroke SB10 and 200m individual medley SM10.

In a combative wheelchair basketball competition, Britain's men lifted their world ranking to second but had their gold medal chances snuffed by a rampant Australian team, who beat them 78-63 in the final.

Medals table, *Sporting Digest*, page 19

PAUL STEPHENS	
Leicester	22
Agon	28

Leicester were given a foretaste of what to expect when the European Cup starts as they were handed any number of sharp lessons in creativity and defensive organisation while being comprehensively outplayed by Agen in the final of the inaugural International Challenge Cup at Welford Road.

For future tournaments to be

judged a success and taken seriously, clubs will have to field something like full-strength teams and not treat the event like some glorified training exercise. Even with a £57,500 prize fund, some of the rugby resembled nothing more than a touch-and-pass.

Agon took the contest more seriously than the others but, even so, they made eight substitutions in a one-sided final.

Whatever doubts may exist about the value of such events, Bob Dwyer, Leicester's newly-installed director of coaching,

was left in no doubt about the size of the task confronting him as he attempts to reshape Leicester's midfield to make them fully competitive.

With fresh half-backs and a new centre pairing, Dwyer is short of time as he prepares for the match against Saracens on Saturday. "We wanted to win," Dwyer said, "but Agen were better prepared and had already played a lot of games. But we've no complaints, at least we finished full of fight."

In fact, Leicester finished with a penalty try awarded

when Agen pulled down a maul as Leicester's forwards rolled towards the line. Until then Leicester had never threatened to score a try, being kept afloat in torrential rain by five penalties. John Liley scored the first two before departing with a leg injury. Matt Jones got the others and the conversion as Leicester hauled themselves to some sort of respectability.

But by then Agen, immeasurably superior in defence with some delightful touches from Olivier Campan and Jean-Charles Cistacq, were coasting

to victory. After Cistacq had scored, Abdelatif Beozazi, Agen's captain, left in another bewildering bout of substitutions. Beozazi clearly sensed that his job was done, and with Agen leading 25-15 Leicester had no chance of breaking them down.

It will have a direct and beneficial impact on skills and fitness levels," Crichton said.

The SRU said they will announce the names of players who accept contracts, but they will not disclose details of individual deals.

Athletics and swimming emerged as Britain's strongest sports. There were 42 medals in athletics, including 12 golds, seven of which came with world records.

Steve Payton, who has cerebral palsy, showed all his sprinting prowess with golds at 100m, 200m and 400m in the men's T37 class, while the partially-sighted middle-distance runner Noel Thatcher showed the benefit of spending the past 12 months receiving guidance from Japan's top coaches with superb wins at 10,000m and 5,000m. In winning the former, he lowered the world record by 50 seconds despite a stress fracture in his left shin.

The injury did rule Thatcher out of the marathon, in which the partially-sighted runners Steve Brunt and Mark Farnell finished with silvers apiece in the B2 and B3 categories.

At the aquatic centre there was a haul of 48 medals, including 16 golds - seven of them with world records. Apart from three golds for the partially-sighted Holmes, another three went to Stockport's Sarah Bailey, in the women's 100m backstroke S10, 100m breaststroke SB10 and 200m individual medley SM10.

In a combative wheelchair basketball competition, Britain's men lifted their world ranking to second but had their gold medal chances snuffed by a rampant Australian team, who beat them 78-63 in the final.

Medals table, *Sporting Digest*, page 19

Stich in form as Maleeva departs

Tennis

JOHN ROBERTS
reports from New York

The United States Open was able to set aside all the rows over seedings and torn-up draw sheets when tennis broke out yesterday. It was good to see people hitting shots instead of calling them.

Michael Stich, who would have been among the seeds had not the US Tennis Association been reminded of the Grand Slam rules, advanced to the second round after a difficult match against Tommy Haas, an 18-year-old German compatriot.

Haas, a qualifier ranked No 237 in the world, made an impressive start to his Grand Slam career. He led 2-0 in the fourth set, only for Stich to recover his form, forget a score, shoulder, and win 6-3, 1-6, 6-1, 7-5.

Only a fortnight ago, Haas reached the quarter-finals of his first professional tournament, having been given a wild card for the ATP Tour event in Indianapolis. He lost to the host - Pete Sampras.

Born in Munich, Haas is based at the Nick Bollettieri Tennis Academy in Florida. "I believe Tommy has the potential to be as good as, or better than, any player ever to come out of the academy - and that includes Andre Agassi," Bollettieri said.

Stich, the runner-up to Agassi here in 1994 and a finalist at this year's French Open, has lost in the opening round of Grand Slam championships on six occasions. Haas saw that his opponent was vulnerable, but experience told at the finish.

The first seed to fall was in the women's singles, Bulgaria's Magdalena Maleeva, No 12, losing to the 10th-ranked Aleksandra Olsza, of Poland, 6-4, 6-4. Martina Hingis opened proceedings on the Stadium Court, defeating Angeles Montolio of Spain, 6-1, 6-0 in a hour. Military set flying Meadows, which experienced many a chill from the Cold War during its time as the temporary headquarters of the United Nations. That was three decades before the serious business of international tennis took hold of the place with the transfer of the US Open from Forest Hills.

The fresh face of Britain's Tim Henman was to be found among 50 of the world's leading players the other day when the ATP Tour warned the US Open - and the three other Grand Slam championships - that it expects seedings to adhere to rankings in future.

Back in 1988, Mats Wilander was a leading ATP spokesman against the tennis establishment at what was tantamount to a strike meeting in the park at Flushing Meadows, a major development which led to the breakaway ATP tour in 1990.

Wilander did a lot more than talk in 1988. He won three of the four Grand Slam singles titles (Wimbledon, French Open, and US Open) and the Swedish US Open, against Ivan Lendl eleven years ago.

After that, Wilander's brilliant career went into decline, but he continues to campaign, aged 32 and ranked No 174. It is to be hoped that a leg injury does not prevent him from competing against Henman in a first-round match that may contribute to the young Briton's education.



Matt Le Tissier relaxes at training yesterday. Photograph: Steve Bardens/Mark Leech

Le Tissier has goals to achieve under Hoddle

GLENN MOORE

Football Correspondent



Footballers usually get picked for England because they are playing well. Glenn Hoddle agreed after his first day of training at Bisham Abbey yesterday that was why Andy Hinchcliffe and Mark Draper had been summoned to bolster his injury-hit squad.

"The thing was right," said the new coach.

Then in walks Matt Le Tissier to hunt for a goal. "I thought I would have to play better than I am to get back," his selection for the squad to travel to Moldova at the weekend is a triumph of faith over form. Le Tissier is an outstanding player playing badly. The problem is, he is well aware of this and it is not helping him play any better. Hoddle's task this week is to restore Le Tissier's self-belief.

"I suppose I am not the first person to be called up when not at the top of his form," Le Tissier said. "A different manager might not have picked me. Now it is up to me to prove myself. I hope I take my chance better this time. It is 18 months since I was last involved and it feels like a long time."

"I am not low on confidence but it is not as high as it was two years ago. Players like me thrive on scoring goals and creating chances, and it does not feel good knowing I only scraped into double figures last season."

"I have got frustrated with myself. It is difficult because we [Southampton] have not been getting much possession so, when

I get the ball, I try to do something different all the time, try to create something, because I don't know when I'll get it back."

It was put to Le Tissier that it might have been different had his audacious first-minute chip against Chelsea in Southampton's opening game gone in instead of hitting the bar. "I've thought that to myself quite a few times," he said, before adding: "It would have helped if that hadn't been the only contribution I made in the game. Le Tissier was then asked if he was aware of how big the debate is about him playing for England. "Yes, and it is a pain in the arse."

Hoddle's appointment has reopened a debate that appeared to have been won by Terry Venables. Venables had been criticised for dropping Le Tissier after the abortive match in Dublin but, as Le Tissier's form dipped and England's fortunes rose, the critics fell silent. "I never had a cross word with Terry," Le Tissier said.

Le Tissier's highest problem may be where to play. Le Tissier. Even the player himself is not sure. "I can score goals, but I can create goals, too. It would be easier if I was only very good at one of them. A lot of international teams now play with one forward up and one playing slightly behind, and most of my managers have tended to play

me in that deeper position. But there are a lot of players here who come into that category."

The main two are Teddy Sheringham and Nick Barmby, and both have started the season in form and neither are injured - which is more than can be said for several of Hoddle's squad. There are six doubtfully in add in Darren Anderton, who pulled out last week. David Batty (ankle), Les Ferdinand (toe infection) and Paul Gascoigne (Achilles) are expected to be fit enough to travel but Steve Howey, Steve McNamara and Rhodie Fowler will probably go back to their clubs.

The first four had a light warm-up yesterday while the latter two were not due until last night. They would need treatment during their time with England but it was worth it because it would otherwise be another five weeks before he involved them. Hoddle said: "With that in mind, Graeme Le Saux has also joined the squad. Though far from being fit, Hoddle felt it would 'give him a lift' to be included."

Hoddle was also unrepentant about picking David Beckham - it has been suggested that Manchester United would rather his call-up had been delayed. "I've spoken to Alex Ferguson and his main concern is whether Beckham is ready to deal with things off the pitch," Hoddle said. "I agree with that up to a point but if you have talent you have to play with the best. A lot of players have been capped at 21 [including Hoddle]. Handling things off the pitch is part of being a footballer - by being here he can see how Alan Shearer handles the pressure. It can be a big plus."

Hopes for Hendry

Craig Brown is confident that the Blackburn defender Colin Hendry will be fit for Scotland's opening World Cup qualifying match in Austria on Saturday.

Hendry shrugged off the discomfort of a groin injury to play in his club's 2-2 draw against Manchester United at Old Trafford on Sunday.

"His problem is a deep seated groin injury but he has been playing with it and he should be okay," said the Scotland manager, who has no plans to draft in replacement players despite the loss of John Spencer of Chelsea and Blackburn's Billy

McKinlay over the weekend.

The Watford striker David Connolly is out of the Republic of Ireland squad for their World Cup Group Eight qualifying tie away to Liechtenstein on Saturday after picking up a hamstring injury during Saturday's 2-0 home defeat by Millwall.

Manchester United's Nicky Butt, Chelsea's Jody Morris and Queen's Park Rangers' Kevin Gallen have been ruled out of the England Under-21's European Championship qualifier in Moldova on Saturday. Leicester's Emile Heskey could also miss out on the trip to Chisinau.

Batistuta's birthday gift

Gabriel Batistuta gave Fiorentina the perfect 70th birthday present on Sunday with two goals that gave the Italian Cup winners a 2-1 victory over Milan, the Serie A champions, in the Super Cup.

The victory, coming on the eve of the anniversary of the club's foundation in 1926, also marked the first time since the pre-season competition between the Cup winners and the League champions was started in 1983 that the Cup winners had won.

Batistuta gave Fiorentina the lead in the 11th minute. Stefan Schwarz picked him out with a lob to the edge of the box and the Argentine striker did the rest, chipping the veteran defender Franco Barresi and scoring at the near post.

Dejan Savicevic equalised for Milan in the 21st minute, weaving past a defender, checking and hitting a left-footed shot that gave Francesco Toldo, the

young Fiorentina goalkeeper, little chance.

The score stayed level until the 83rd minute, but with a penalty shoot-out looming, Batistuta took charge.

Marcel Dessaly fouled Batistuta, who scored from the free-kick with a shot from 30 yards out which curled over the defence and dipped in under the bar. It was just reward for Fiorentina, who looked by far the more impressive team.

George Weah missed a good opportunity for Milan in the first half, but otherwise looked a little rusty. Roberto Baggio did not play due to an injury and Edgar Davids, Milan's new signing, came on in the second half as substitute but made little impact.

In Portugal, Porto, the champions, kicked off the season with a disappointing 2-2 home draw against Setúbal and were lucky to get a late equaliser.

Porto, who are aiming for

their third consecutive title this season, were 2-0 down until the 86th minute, when Mario Jardel scored with a header. The goal came after a string of defensive opportunities, including Domingos Oliveira receiving a penalty in the 60th minute. He redeemed himself by scoring the equaliser just into extra time.

Setúbal, who mounted skilful counter-attacks throughout the game, scored their first goal in the 16th minute, when the unmarked Chiquinho Conde squeezed a shot past Porto's new goalkeeper, Andrej Wozniak. Conde scored his second goal in the 70th minute.

Benfica were held to a 1-1 draw at home by Braga, despite the visitors being reduced to 10 men in the 54th minute after Rodrigo Carneiro was sent off for a second bookable offence.

Benfica dominated the game but their lack of a first-class striker was apparent throughout.

out. In the 30th minute they also lost their key midfielder, Valdo, who suffered a knee injury.

Benfica finally scored in the 81st minute with a penalty taken by Helder after Luis Balboa tripped up Joao Pinto. Adalberto equalised for Braga with a header two minutes later.

In Brazil, two players left a championship match early on Sunday because they had to catch a plane to Russia to play with the national team.

Andre, the São Paulo midfielder, and Narciso, the Santos defender were both substituted during their teams' game, taken to São Paulo airport and flown to Rio de Janeiro in a private jet to join the national squad for the journey to Moscow. The problem arose because the match was selected as the day's televised live game, forcing it to be put back three hours from the usual kick-off time.

Welsh juniors go down fighting

Hockey

Wales, making their first entry into the European Women's Junior Championship yesterday, put up a courageous performance against Germany, the defending champions, before losing 3-0, writes Bill Collwill from Cardiff.

After that, Wilander's brilliant career went into decline, but he continues to campaign, aged 32 and ranked No 174. It is to be hoped that a leg injury does not prevent him from competing against Henman in a first-round match that may contribute to the young Briton's education.

Stunned by a penalty stroke conversion three minutes into the second half, Wales fought back before conceding a third goal in the 54th minute, again allowing a German striker, Jennie Schiwinn, an easy run at goal.

England started their programme with a 5-2 win against the Czech Republic. Purdy Miller and Helen Grant scored twice, with Sarah Blanks, whose speed created all sorts of problems for the Czech defence,

completing the scoring. The England captain, Lucy Newcombe, who played with a fractured thumb, suffered in practice on Sunday, was happy despite her team letting in two soft goals. "We were very nervous at the start but once we scored we were never going to lose."

Wales today play the Ukraine, which caused a major surprise in beating Spain yesterday. England have a rest day before playing Russia tomorrow.

Budgen brothers make swell start to series

Sailing

STUART ALEXANDER

There were plenty of spills on the opening day of the Audi Laser 5,000 National Championships yesterday, with capsize boats littering Hayling Bay.

In a thrilling display of power, Andy and Ian Budgen, the defending champions, won all three races to establish not just a commanding lead but a psychological advantage over the 51-boat fleet.

The series for the high-performance double trapeze dinghies, which are trying to be accepted as a new Olympic class for Sydney 2000, is a tough one, with 14 races scheduled before the prize-giving on Friday.

It has attracted entries from 10 countries, including a clutch of Olympians led by the Savanah silver medalist Ben Ainslie, who teams up with another Laser sailor, Iain Percy, as crew. Their best result was a 13th place.

The Barcelona 470 representative Paul Brotherton scored a second in the final race of the day, the strength of his crew, Tim Hancock, telling as the south-westerly breeze picked up to 16 knots. But only the Budgen brothers could produce consistent performances as crews tired in the lumpy swell.

Six different boats filled the second and third placings in the day's three races.

Jean-Philippe Salieu's Gavroche, from France, in the lead of the Brest's Round Britain Challenge yesterday. The 10 boats, two each from England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland and France, were into the second day of the second leg from Galway to Oban.

Scotland's Jon Fitzgerald, in Glendronach, took second place, with Craig Nutter in third place for England and gaining ground in Newcastle Quayside.

SPORTING DIGEST

Athletics

United Olympic may extend his Grand Prix career to run in a "dream team" relay with the world's fastest sprinters in Berlin for Friday's Olympic Games. The relay will be run by Donovan Bailey of Canada and Frankie Fredericks of Namibia. Carl Lewis was also going to be part of the relay but had to withdraw because of a leg injury. A replacement has yet to be announced.

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THIRD TEST: England's batsmen and bowlers have serious lessons to learn after fifth successive series defeat against Pakistan

Mushtaq shows complete mastery

DEREK PRINGLE

 reports from The Oval
 England 326 and 242
 Pakistan 521-8 dec and 48-1
 Pakistan win by nine wickets

England brought both an expectant summer and the Illingworth era to a painful and unsatisfactory end in the Third Test at The Oval yesterday. A 2-0 defeat against Wasim Akram's talented side would not ordinarily be a humiliating result over a five-match series, but over three it represents a sound thrashing and one the home side and their coach, David Lloyd, must learn from.

One of the lessons is that England need to find a bowling attack capable of taking wickets, or at least putting opposition batsmen under pressure. Alan Mullally apart, none of England's bowlers in this series pitched a consistent length and line.

Another lesson – an increased resilience among the batsmen – was thought to have been learned. Against predictable bowling attacks that may be the case, but against a combination as inventive and confrontational as this, England looked as fragile as ever once the pressure began to grow fangs and Mushtaq's leg-spin began to bite.

The Sultan of Sahiwal is not too grand a title for this diminutive wizard of wrist-spin. His 6 for 78 came from an unbroken spell of 30 overs from the Vauxhall End, a performance that earned him the man-of-the-match award and one that raised his haul of 17 wickets in the series and 45 in his last six Tests.

Indeed so complete was Mushtaq's mastery that until Waqar's dismissal of Chris Lewis – the batsman was unsurprisingly late getting his bat down on an inswinger – the leg-spinner appeared to be heading towards bagging all 10. As it was, Wasim's three late wickets propelled him into the 300 club in his 70th Test, the 11th Test player to achieve this benchmark of true greatness.

Poor England. This is the fifth successive series Pakistan have won against England, a record stretching back to 1982. Every time they convince themselves that things are getting better, along comes a team whose consummate skill and aggression reminds them, that at best, things have only really remained static. A contention borne out by the fact that England have only beaten these opponents once in the last 19 Tests.

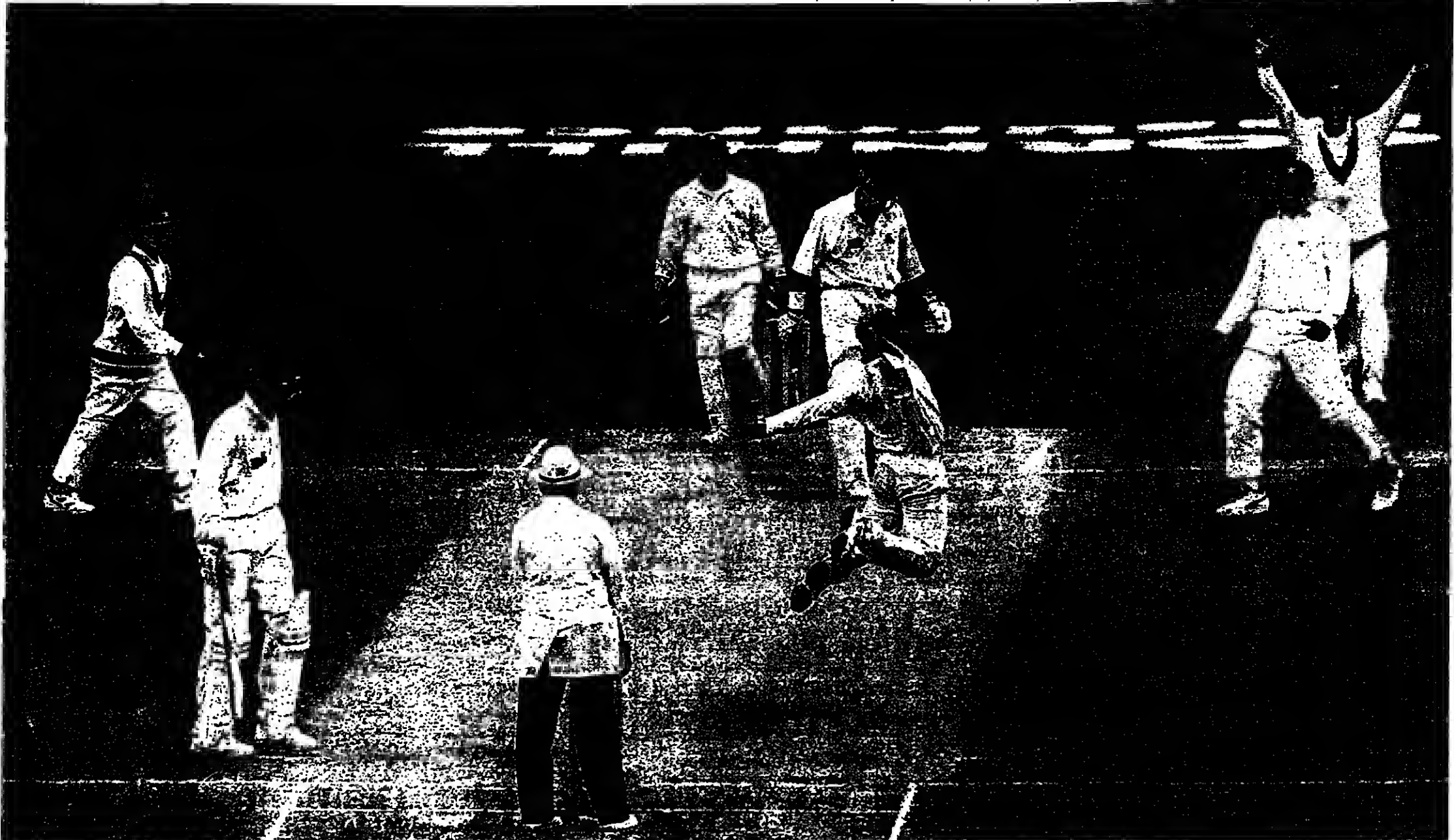
Yesterday's all-fall-down – 10 wickets lost for 126 runs in three and a half hours – was a virtual re-run of their last day batting collapse at Lord's in the first Test, when nine wickets were lost on the final afternoon for 75 runs.

In a way that was the crucial blow, devastatingly struck and immaculately timed in terms of the strategy and psychology of a three-match series. After that, England knew they had to win but seemed unsure how to take the 20 wickets needed to accomplish it.

Confused, they were forced to mix cod ideology (in the hope of getting green wickets) with a bowling attack who were never sure what to believe, as much desired continuity was jettisoned in favour of the "one-off" selection.

The batting, so sure and certain at Headingley, showed its customary fragility here once Atherton had gone, second out, to a sharp pad-bat catch at silly point. With Mushtaq Ahmed bowling round the wicket, he was drawn into a defensive shot he need not have played.

His annoyance was evident as he swished his bat angrily as if swatting a pesky wasp. Once again, the England captain appears to be the only player able to defend for long periods. Although a draw was useless to England in the context of the series, they lost



Jumping for joy: Pakistan's Mushtaq Ahmed celebrates after taking the wicket of Nick Knight, the fifth of the leg-spinner's six England victims at The Oval yesterday

Photograph: David Ashdown

much of the credibility gained at Headingley, with the meekness of their collapse. His opening partner, Alec Stewart, who has resurrected his Test career with his sleek and powerful strokeplay, was deservedly made his country's man of the series, an accolade that also went Mushtaq's way when Pakistan's was named by England's coach, David Lloyd.

However, even a cricketing nostalgist like John Major cannot have failed to be impressed by the verve and substance of Pakistan's cricket. Like England they have a six-month season. Unlike us, they have no cricket academies or indoor schools:

just a club system operated with cut-throat competitiveness on and off the field. If the Prime Minister does want to learn how to improve England's cricketing lot, he should send his next fact-finding party to the depths of Pakistan, and not to some committee room at Lord's where the meniscus of gin and tonics have a habit of distorting the bare facts.

The Illingworth reign has ended by posing more questions than it has answered. Under the Yorkshireman, England have played 28 Tests, winning six, drawing 13 and losing nine. It is by no means a devastation, and yet when there are individual

players as talented as Cork, Atherton, Stewart and Thorpe around, England's win rate should be higher. Winning is not everything but it should permeate English cricket a lot further than it does at the moment.

Surrey, responding to a request by the first and County Cricket Board to drop Chris Lewis as further punishment for arriving late at The Oval on Sunday, said their team to face Warwickshire will be chosen in the usual way on Wednesday. Surrey's coach, David Gilbert, said if Lewis played he could be captain, as Alec Stewart and Adam Hoggie, his vice-captain, are in England's one-day squad.

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Scoreboard from The Oval

England won by 9 wickets

England: 326 (100.0 overs) 242 (75.0 overs)

Pakistan: 521-8 (100.0 overs) 48-1 (10.0 overs)

England's batting: 100-154 (38.4 overs), 190-210 (70.0 overs), 242 (75.0 overs)

Pakistan's batting: 100-154 (38.4 overs), 190-210 (70.0 overs), 242 (75.0 overs)

England's bowling: 100-154 (38.4 overs), 190-210 (70.0 overs), 242 (75.0 overs)

Pakistan's bowling: 100-154 (38.4 overs), 190-210 (70.0 overs), 242 (75.0 overs)

Atherton pads up in defence of 'resilient side'

SIMON O'HAGAN

It would be nice for Michael Atherton if he did not have to put on a brave face almost as often as he does his pads, but after yesterday's second capitulation of the summer against Pakistan, the England captain was forced into a routine that he always performs with commendable dignity – facing up to the reality of his team's shortcomings while still salvaging hope from disappointment.

"What I've said all along is that we've become a harder side to beat, though today's not a good day to say that," he said. "But I think we are a more resilient side than we were. The next stage is to try and find an attack that stays together. Just as you need a batting attack that stays together, so you need a bowling attack that stays together."

That, of course, is the hard part. "It takes time," David Lloyd, the England coach, said. "The challenge for us is to come up with a formula that gives Mike something to work with to control the game and take wickets."

"We've got to give as much support to the captain as we can. The way he's played and handled himself in a difficult Test was a monumental effort, but we've lost. I just feel we've let him down a bit."

Atherton said that having to tell members of the Test team that they were out of the T20 Trophy squad and then the disciplining of Chris Lewis had added to his cares during the last two days.

But he still took what he reckoned was his share of the blame for the defeat, citing his own dismissal to Mushtaq Ahmed as one of a couple of "soft" ones in England's second-innings collapse. He nobly suggested that dealing with Pakistan's new-ball attack was easier than coming to face bowlers, particularly Mushtaq, who were into their rhythm.

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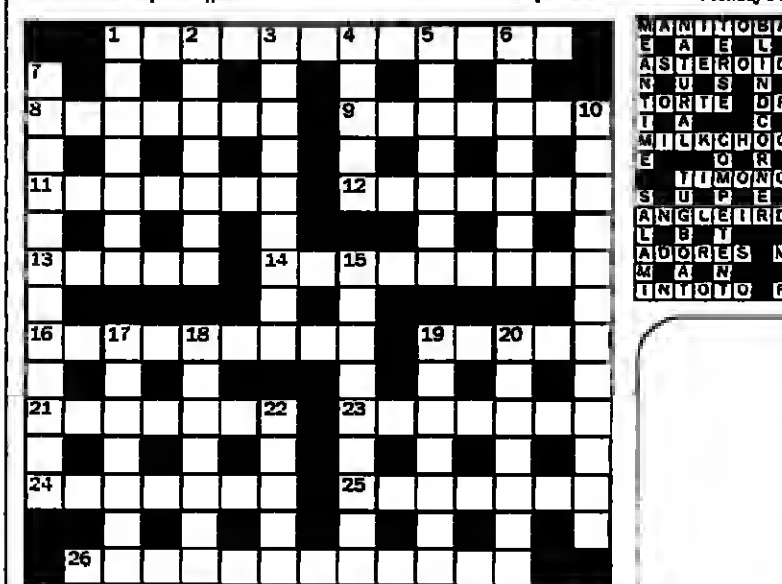
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THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No. 3076, Tuesday 27 August By Aled



- ACROSS**
- Age Concern is pressured to give pledge (1,2)
 - Check traveller on ship (7)
 - Use lint for wrapping up handy tool (7)
 - One advising of attempt to attract attention in row (7)
 - Give out an appellation about note (7)
 - Nurse has un-English vocation (5)
 - Hold on for a cut by Spain (9)
 - Not liking well-endowed shed (3-6)
 - Is to take legal action in disputed question (5)
 - A woman holding science can produce a carbuncle (7)
 - New climb which is just coming into being (7)
- DOWN**
- Harvester retains power to decorate again (7)
 - Original type of race rerouted over hill (7)
 - Sluggish type, after talk, walked to secure work (9)
 - Get used to old rail union that is taking over (5)
 - Material state in Paris limited by expert (7)
 - Fall of boulder caught by police investigation (7)
 - Favouring private eye with time to speak of Cromwell's state (12)
 - They check pork pies in East London (3,9)
 - Supernumerary Communist and German worker (9)
 - Opening of clenched hand united the French (7)
 - Alfredo broadcasting covers Physical Education (4-3)
 - Almost offend a king, being narrow in outlook (7)
 - Lieutenant in steep refuge (7)
 - Scandinavian gets married in Kent? (5)

Bemused batsmen not equipped to play spin

HENRY BLOFIELD

If there was anyone who had forgotten the entertainment value of wrist-spin they should have been at The Oval for the final day's Test cricket this summer. Mushtaq Ahmed took 6 for 78 in 37 overs and single-handedly destroyed the England batting with a glorious and irresistible spell of bowling which began at 6.25 on Sunday evening and ended at 4.18 yesterday.

Throughout the series, Mushtaq's shadow has hovered over England's batsmen like an albatross. He is not unknown to them either. He played his trade with Somerset from 1993 to 1995, and the England batsmen will all have come across him at one time or another.

Not only that, but the batsmen and the management also knew that Mushtaq would be one of the principal threats. It was imperative, therefore, that those

unable to tell the leg-break from the googly should be helped to work out a method of playing this type of bowling.

But far from this happening, England's batsmen at The Oval looked in an even greater state of confusion against Mushtaq than they were in the First Test at Lord's. John Crawley seemed to read Mushtaq pretty well, and Michael Atherton got it right most of the time.

Nasser Hussain did his best trying to sort out the spin from the way the ball spun as it came down the pitch towards him. He is, anyway, an excellent player of spin and will work this problem out before too long. As it was, in the second innings he was the victim of a questionable low decision. The others might have been batting in a fog.

Reading the spin in the air is one way of coping; another is to keep on the front foot, playing with limp wrists so that the spin is killed. Mushtaq's top-spinner

is probably more dangerous than his googly, which is not hidden as cleverly as some. The top-spinner tends to hurry through off the pitch, which is another reason for keeping on the front foot.

What made this an even sadder day for English cricket was that Mushtaq triumphed on an excellent pitch which was still full of runs. This shows that even when the batsmen know which way the ball is turning they do not have the technique to cope.

The reason here is that wrist-spinners are almost an extinct species in English cricket and batsmen are completely lost when they come up against them. The preparation for a series against Mushtaq was less than effective. Next year it will be Australia and Shane Warne and our coaches, managers, advisers, counsellors and whatever must start working on that one now. There is not a day to be lost.